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FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

FRANCE.—The Chamber of Deputies on Tuesday concluded the debate on the Public Worship Estimates, and rejected almost all the modifications of the Senate, notwithstanding the support given to them by the Government. The reductions in the stipends of the Archbishop of Paris and the Bishops and clergy in Algeria were maintained, as well as the suppression of the emoluments of the Canons of St. Denis, and the vote for the seminary scholarships, the only exception being in favour of the salaries of the Canons, the vote for which was partly reinstated.

The Chamber on Thursday concluded the debate on the Budget, and rejected all the increased grants proposed by the Senate, with the exception of the sum set down for promoting horseracing. The Budget thus modified was again presented in the Senate. The Chamber of Deputies subsequently adjourned until to-day (Saturday), and the Senate until Monday next.

According to a telegram received by the French Minister of Marine, Colonel Duchesne, at the head of 1,300 men, attacked the Chinese at Kelung on the 4th inst. After a series of engagements extending over four days, the Chinese were driven from all their positions, leaving behind them two guns, a quantity of ammunition, and a large number of rifles and flags. The French loss was about 200 killed and wounded.

The Legation of Guatemala in Paris has received a telegram confirming the news of the recent action taken by President Barrios in proclaiming the union of Central America as one Republic.

Litigation has arisen in France respecting a chalice presented by James 1. of England in 1604 to Frias de Velasco, Constable of Spain and Ambassador to London. The chalice is a work of the thirteenth or fourteenth century, and is of great value. The recipient presented it to the Nunnery of Medina de Pomar, with reversion, in case of the convent being dissolved or being indisposed to keep it, to Burgos Cathedral. It remained in the convent till 1883, when the abbess, on account of pecuniary straits and fear of robbery, entrusted it to a priest for sale. A French collector, Baron Pichon, bought it for £6,500; but the convent received only £4,500. The Duc de Frias and the Burgos Chapter now claim it. The Spaniard who sold it to Baron Pichon told him it had belonged to the Duc de Frias, and the Baron accordingly wrote to the Duc to inquire as to its history. The latter then wrote to the abbess, and she admitted the sale, but pleaded that the convent records did not show the origin of the chalice, which tradition connected with a Turkish Sovereign. The chalice, however, bears a Latin inscription showing when and by whom it was given. The hearing of the case is likely to occupy some time.

ITALY.—The Pope has named Cardinal Ledochowski to be Secretary of Briefs, the most lucrative office of the Apostolic Court, in succession to the late Cardinal Chigi. The special importance of this appointment is that the Cardinal's claim to the Archbishopric of Posen is thereby practically waived, and therefore the Pope has made a new step towards Germany. The nomination was communicated to Berlin before it was made.

The Roman *Nuova Antologia* publishes a long article contributed by an "ex-Diplomatic," narrating the different events and negotiations which led to the occupation of Massowah by Italy, and to the relations existing between Italy and England before and after the fall of Khartoum. We understand that the narration as set forth in the *Nuova Antologia* has no foundation whatever. The reasons which led to the occupation of Massowah by Italy must be found in the fact that both the Cabinets of St. James and Rome were informed from Berlin during the sittings of the Congo Conference of the negotiations pending for the proclamation by Russia of a protectorate over Abyssinia, and of the occupation by that Power of Massowah. In accordance with the "third point" of the Congo Conference, the resolution of Russia to proclaim a protectorate and to occupy Massowah was to have been communicated to the Powers at the last sitting of the Conference. The traditional policy of Italy suggested the course adopted with the full consent of the English Cabinet.

In reply to the congratulations of Cardinal Sacconi on the seventh anniversary of his enthronement, the Pope, among other things, said:—"We are not alarmed by our daily cares and occupations, nor by the anger, insults, and menaces we encounter; but we are alarmed when we see how in many kingdoms the Church is mistaken and her intentions calumniated. In our present condition we are not in our own power, but in that of others, which state of things can only aggravate their enmity against us, and renew against our proper person the hostility of which many among our predecessors were victims. How can he who unjustly invaded the States of the Church and took forcible possession of Rome, advancing to the very doors of this our dwelling-place, give us any security that this will not also be violated? Have not ferocious menaces been directed, on not very remote occasions, against our peacefui asylum?" Then, mentioning the sentence against the Propaganda and the nomination of Bishops, &c., the Pope added:—"Is this a condition fit for the Pontificate? No; we may suffer it, but never accept or set our seal to it." In conclusion the Pope said that he counted on the work of the Sacred College.

AMERICA.—Mr. Cleveland has issued General Grant's commission as general on the retired list. His pay and emoluments will amount to 15,000dols. annually, beginning on Saturday. General Grant's condition does not improve, and he thinks (the American correspondent of the *Times* says) that death may ensue in a month. He hopes to live for that period, in order to complete the memoirs of his military campaigns, on which he works whenever his ailments permit him. His body is wasting away, and his teeth are nearly all gone, several having been drawn so as to relieve the intense neuralgic pains originating from the cancer, but extending to his ears, and generally throughout his head. He can swallow only liquids and has no appetite. His physicians say that there is no reason to expect any permanent improvement. The chief danger is the loss of strength from the difficulty of retaining nourishment. It is dangerous to give him anything in the morning, when he usually suffers great agony, which is increased by the effort to reject food. His suffering is beyond even the power of cocaine, which is steadily administered. Later, when this has attained enough influence over him, the danger from retching is decreased, highly concentrated food being then given, though in small quantities. His disease has been progressing very much recently. The diseased tissues are situate where the knife cannot be used. There is no hope of prolonging his life beyond a few weeks.

AUSTRIA.—The Bill for the reform of the Hungarian Upper House, which has already passed through the Lower one, is now before the magnates. In order to ensure its acceptance, some concessions to the Episcopate will have to be made. The Bill only allows a seat to one Jewish Rabbi, but the Roman Catholics think even this too much. The *Times* correspondent says that terms of compromise were finally concluded with the Conservative leaders on Saturday and submitted to the Emperor the following day:—

"At present the Prince of Wales and the King of Portugal both have the right to vote in the House of Magnates, having inherited the 'Indigenat' from the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha; and many other foreigners stand in a similar position. By the new Bill, the only hereditary lords will be those owning in Hungary estates which pay 3,000fl. a year of land-tax; but Herr Tisza has withdrawn the clause depriving of their seats those Magyars (at present nine) who are at the same time peers of Austria. The clause which excludes Bishops *in partibus infidelium* from the House has been tempered by a proviso that the Bishops of Bosnia and Herzegovina shall remain on the same footing as the Hungarian prelates, Roman Catholics, Greek Catholics, and Greek Orthodox, who all retain their seats. The Protestant confessions are to be represented by lay nominees of the Lutheran and Calvinist Synods. The difficulty about the Jews will probably be surmounted by the Emperor creating several distinguished Jews peers for life."

SERVIA.—Yesterday week, the anniversary of the elevation of Servia into a kingdom, King Milan proclaimed an amnesty, liberating 700 prisoners convicted for complicity in the insurrection of fifteen months ago. The actual leaders of armed bands, as well as the members of the Radical Central Committee, and the deputies, clergymen, schoolmasters, and Government and municipal officials who were convicted, are excepted.

CHINA.—The Hong Kong correspondent of the *Standard*, telegraphing on Saturday, says:—

"The Chinese claim that they have defeated the French heavily after severe fighting at Sinkwan (Thuyen Quan?), in the north of Tonquin. The Chinese are preparing to resume offensive operations in Tonquin. The reports which reach us from Formosa represent the condition of the French at Keelung to be deplorable."

The following despatch has been received from General Brière de Lisle, dated Thuyen Quan, March 3:—

"I arrived at Thuyen Quan at four o'clock this afternoon with the first brigade. The Black Flags and the Yünnan army, strongly posted, occupied a pass, the sides of which were inaccessible. They had established forts and three successive lines of entrenchments before Duoc. The fight was very severe, and our troops behaved more admirably than ever. The enemy raised the siege of Thuyen Quan last night, the garrison having fought for eighteen days after the first breach had been made in the body of the fortress. They sustained seven assaults, and caused immense loss to the enemy. The siege should be counted among the most brilliant pages of our history. The gunboat, *La Mitrailleuse*, took an active part in the defence of Thuyen Quan."

Advices from Lang-son stated that General Négrier has destroyed the Chinese forts on the frontier, their magazines, and large quantities of ammunition, and has blown up the gate of China.

AFRICA.—Mr. Rhodes has tendered his resignation as Deputy Commissioner for Bechanaland, assigning as a reason for the step that he considers Sir Charles Warren's action without justification, and contrary to treaty obligations. Sir Hercules Robinson has addressed a despatch to the Imperial Government requesting that Sir Charles Warren be instructed to subordinate the civil administration of Bechuanaland to him, and objecting to the presence of Mr. Mackenzie at Vryburg. Lord Derby's reply upholds the position taken up by the Governor. The Transvaal Government has made strong representations to Sir Hercules Robinson against the reinstatement of Mr. Mackenzie.

Sir Charles Warren is acting with great energy in Stellaland. He has arrested Van Niekerk, who called himself "administrator," and two confederates on a charge of complicity in the murder of Mr. Honey. This action has created considerable excitement among the Dutch.

It is announced by the German *Official Gazette* that the British and German Governments have agreed to submit to a Mixed Commission, to assemble at Capetown, the rights over private property and other privileges which the British subjects in the territory now under German protection between the mouth of the Orange River and Cape Frio, exclusive of Walfisch Bay, and the German subjects in Walfisch Bay and the islands near Angra Pequeña, claim to have acquired.

The Rev. J. E. Wigram, hon. secretary of the Church Missionary Society, states that news has been received from missionaries at Rubaga, in Uganda, of the death on October 10 of King Mtesa, at whose invitation, conveyed to England by Stanley, the Church Missionary Society organised the Victoria Nyanza mission nine years ago. The King is succeeded by Mwanga, a lad who has been in some measure brought under the influence of the missionaries. The comparative freedom from violence and bloodshed with which this change of monarchs has been marked is said to be unprecedented.

A project is on foot for establishing a pneumatic tube between Brussels and Paris. The time letters and cards will take in transmission by this method is estimated at half-an-hour. It is also proposed to make parallel tubes connecting London and the French capital, the time of transmission in this case being a full hour, and the total cost to get them into working order is set down at under £2,000. If these tubes act without getting clogged the telegraph revenue may expect to fall off, and the policy of running new lines in the metropolitan district on account of the new sixpenny messages will be questioned.

THE NILE EXPEDITION.

A general order was issued last week by Lord Wolseley to the soldiers and sailors of the Nile expeditionary force:—

"The Queen, who has watched with the deepest interest the doings of her soldiers and sailors, has desired me to express to you her admiration for your courage and your self-devotion. To have commanded such men is to me a source of the highest pride. No greater honour can be in store for me than that to which I look forward of leading you, please God! into Khartoum before the year is out. Your noble efforts to save General Gordon have been unsuccessful, but through no fault of yours. Both on the river and in the desert you have borne hardships and privation without murmur; in action you have been uniformly victorious; all that men could do to save a comrade you have done, but Khartoum fell through treachery two days before the advanced troops reached it. A period of comparative inaction may now be expected. This army was not constituted with a view to undertaking the siege of Khartoum, and for the moment we must content ourselves with preparations for the autumn advance. You will, I know, face the heat of summer and the necessary, though less exciting, work which has now to be done with the same courage and endurance you have shown hitherto. I thank you heartily for all you have done in the past. I can wish nothing better—I can ask nothing more of you in the future than the same uncomplaining devotion to duty which has characterised your conduct during the recent operations."

A Souakim despatch reports the arrival there of the Indian Government transports *Shahzada* and *Hurzara* from Bombay, with 400 men and 400 horses of the Indian contingent. The hired transport *Australia*, with General Fremantle and the Grenadier Guards, has also arrived. Three Sikhs were stabbed on Monday night by rebels, two of them being mortally wounded. One rebel was shot dead by a sentry.

Lord Wolseley at Korti on Monday inspected the Naval Brigade, and afterwards addressed them. The General praised the conduct of Lord Charles Beresford and his men in the highest terms, and then called out of the ranks the engineer who repaired the injured boiler of the steamer which was sent to rescue Sir Charles Wilson and his party on their way down from Khartoum. Lord Wolseley complimented the man warmly on his gallant conduct and coolness under the fire of the enemy, and gave him his own cigar-case as a personal memento. The General afterwards heartily thanked Major Denison and his Canadian boatmen for their plucky, unflinching, and gallant behaviour in the whalers.

The officers of General Brackenbury's column give interesting accounts of their voyage down the cataracts. The course was full of perils, as the rapids abounded in difficult places, and the danger of wreck was constantly present; but the risk was forgotten in the excitement and interest occasioned by the exceptional circumstances of the voyage. The 300 whalers, with their soldier crews mostly in scarlet coats, swept down the river in a seemingly endless line at the rate of seven miles an hour, sometimes gliding easily with the current in comparatively smooth water, and then swooping down a rapid with a fall of several feet at terrific speed. Those who from the banks watched the boats as they rode steadily over the calm water, and then leaped down the falls one after the other in rapid succession, say that the scene reminded them of a gigantic water steeplechase. The steering of the boats between the countless rocks and islands was admirable. One serious mishap only occurred. A whaler of the Staffordshire Regiment, with wounded, as it neared the Gerendid Cataract, swung round by some accident and came to the fall broadside on. The boat capsized in a moment, and three of the men were swept away before they could be rescued. The rest were saved.

Owing to Sunday night's surprise, the headquarters', Coldstreams', and other camps at Souakim are being fortified with earthworks at the angles of the ditch and in front. Patrols have been given up, and double sentries have been substituted. A handful of rebels fired upon the camp of the East Surrey Regiment on Monday, wounding two men slightly. The enemy are concentrating at Handouk. Most probably a forward movement will be made by the advanced guard next Monday, to form a camp five miles distant, the whole force proceeding there the next day.

The following are stated to be the arrangements for the disposition of the troops during the summer:—The head-quarters will be at Dongola. The main body of the troops will remain in camp at Korti. The Mudir's troops will be stationed at Merawi, with probably the Black Watch, a troop of the 19th Hussars, and two guns. Two movable columns will be formed ready to take the field at any moment. Of these, one, consisting of General Dormer's brigade of three battalions of infantry, a troop of Hussars, and four guns, will be encamped near Debbeh. The other, under the command of General Brackenbury, will be posted somewhere between Debbeh and Handak. The Heavy Camel Corps will be encamped opposite the Hannek Cataracts. Huts constructed of mud and reeds will be erected for the troops, for the heat in tents would be absolutely insupportable. It is daily increasing now, and is already trying the health of the troops.

A Korti correspondent says:—"We are experiencing very hot weather in camp, and there is in consequence some sickness among our troops. The thermometer registered on Thursday 104 degrees in the shade of the trees near the hospital, and on Friday it went up in similar conditions two degrees. The wind, which is in the south, blows like a furnace. There has been a slight outbreak of enteric fever, and a number of patients suffering from that disease are now under treatment in the hospital. A detachment of the 19th Hussars, in command of Lieutenant Douglas, came into camp on Thursday night. They had marched on foot from Gakdul, having no other means of locomotion. Their horses were either killed in the battles of Abu Klea or Abu Kru, or died from exhaustion during the march to and from Metammeh. The Hussars have lost over forty horses. Dr. Turner, who was brought in by the 19th Hussars on Thursday, by Lieutenant Douglas's detachment, died on Friday morning. It is stated here that Prince Hassan is bringing with him a pack of hounds with which, during the summer months, while operations are suspended, to hunt antelopes, which abound in this region. There are other preparations also being made with which to beguile the inevitable vacation before the resumption of active operations."

The special correspondent of the *Daily Chronicle*, in a letter from Abu Kru, records a little more fully than was done by telegram events at that place before Sir Charles Wilson started for Khartoum. He also gives some additional information about Faragh Pasha's treachery. Writing on February 5, the correspondent says:—

"Some months ago Gordon obtained proof that Faragh Pasha, who commanded the Soudanese troops in Khartoum, and on whom Gordon had literally heaped favours, contemplated treachery. He accused him of it, and brought it home to him, but pardoned him on promise of good behaviour, this pardon being politic by reason of the great influence of the Pasha with the troops. Faragh, however, seems to have thought that the pardon was only *pro tem.*, and that on the arrival of the English he would be punished, so he offered terms to the Mahdi. At first he could not get his price from Mahomed Ahmeh, but the news of our victories at Abu Klea and Abu Kru, and of the reinforcements coming forward, induced the Mahdi to consent to any terms. So on the 25th of January the rebels by arrangement assaulted and easily took the works at Omdurman and on the other shore, including parts of the outlying defences of the city itself. But Gordon still felt safe. He had his parapet complete, and, at the worst, he had the Greek Cathedral, which he used as his magazine, to fall back upon. At this time he does not appear to have suspected Faragh, for he did not remove him from his command, and his confidence was repaid at dawn of the 26th when, without opposition, the Mahdi's troops entered the city, and a detachment proceeding to Gordon's house met him as he was coming out and, in spite of his vigorous defence, slew him then and there, the story adding that the fatal blow was one in the back."

Sir Charles Wilson, the correspondent adds, might have been at Khartoum on the night of the 25th of January if he had started from Abu Kru (or Gubat) the same evening as Gordon's steamers met the British force there—the 21st of January:—

"But he did not leave until mid-day of the 24th, although, I believe, I am right in saying Lord Charles Beresford urged him to lose no time, and even promised that the steamers should be ready to leave in three hours. Lord Charles, in spite of a troublesome and painful abscess, was himself willing and ready to go; but the mission was to be made purely diplomatic, and so it was decided there should be no fighting if it could be helped. No doubt excellent reasons can be given for the delay from the 21st to the 24th; but the delay took place, and that delay prevented Gordon from having a chance of taking refuge. It may be said that Sir Charles Wilson's presence with a very few men of the Sussex Regiment and a few of Gordon's retainers would have only caused an additional loss of life; but it must ever remain a matter for unavailing regret that the time was wasted—or spent otherwise than in active progress up the river—which would have brought the English to Khartoum in time to take Gordon on board one of the steamers for the night. Nay, the very presence of the steamers might have turned the tide of events and saved Khartoum as well as its heroic defender.

"Again, there seems to be no doubt that the two steamers which Sir Charles Wilson took with him were subjected to a very heavy fire from the batteries which the Mahdi had lost no time in turning to account; but it does not appear that they were actually fired on from Khartoum itself, and in my humble judgment they ought to have drawn that fire before giving up the hope that Gordon was still holding out. However, subsequent information has justified the conclusions then jumped at that the city had fallen."

The *Daily Telegraph* special correspondent at Souakim, telegraphing on Thursday, says:—

"Sleeping last night in the open air, opposite the Ordnance Camp, I was awakened by cries of 'Murder!' from the tents. Five shots followed, then confusion, muffled sounds, and afterwards dead silence. A few minutes later the *Dolphin* fired five rounds, and all was quiet again. A tragedy had been horribly completed.

"A large party of the enemy left Tamai yesterday, passing round the camp rear-guards. They went along the coast, skirting the whole rear of the British force, and reached the last—the Ordnance Camp, and there mustered under cover of the *Dolphin's* tent. Thirty yards off the picket they were challenged, and they replied, 'Friends;' then they crept behind the pier, and thence made good their rush. The picket were soon overpowered. The rebels swarmed round the carts forming the camp zareba, and attacked the guards on every side; but being suddenly alarmed by hearing the landing of men from the *Condor*, they fled, carrying off all their dead, and leaving the corpse of the chief, Abdul, the Lion Standard Bearer of Osman. He was a man of gigantic stature and strength, and before the rebellion he acted as a wharf porter. Out of the total number on guard—fifteen—six were killed and seven wounded—three mortally.

"The doctors of the *Carysfort* and *Dolphin*, who were soon ashore, report that the conduct of the men, though they were horribly mangled, was so heroic that Berkshire and Surrey should be thoroughly proud of them.

"Meanwhile the enemy were engaged in attempts upon the camp at many points. The Shropshires lost

two men, and another was dreadfully stabbed while patrolling. The Surreys lost two patrols. Volleys were occasionally fired throughout the British camp during most of the night.

"The Indian camp was also threatened, but General Hudson had protected his front, and had kept his temporary defences manned all night, so that the enemy advancing were well peppered. They left one corpse behind; there were no casualties to troops.

"Criticism on the camp arrangements is forbidden to the correspondents, but Sir Gerald Graham, who has just arrived, has reported in favour of a more concentrated and stronger camp."

The Vienna correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* sends the following notes which he has received from a friend at present travelling in Tunis:—

"The capture of Khartoum by the Mahdi forms the all-absorbing topic of interest here. Only a short time ago the French residents rubbed their hands at every dearly-bought victory of the English. The fall of Khartoum has, however, furnished them with matter for reflection. They dread the progress of the Islamite revolution from Nubia to the Mediterranean, all the more as the conviction prevails that the British force in Upper Egypt will not prove strong enough to check the daily increasing hordes of the Mahdi. In official circles it is considered high time that France should come to an an understanding with England and Italy, and that a Franco-Italian expedition should proceed to Tripoli, either with or without the Porte's sanction. Information has been received here that Tripoli is overrun by the Mahdi's emissaries. The native population in Tunis is outwardly quiet enough, but there can be no doubt that they are following events in the Soudan with the keenest interest, and confidently anticipate the triumph of the Mahdi. The amnesty granted after the death of the insurgent chief Ben Kalifa Tov to the fugitives who sought refuge in Tripoli has not been taken advantage of by the latter, and, under present circumstances, the measure is doomed to failure. Reports have lately reached us of serious difference of opinion between the highest English civil and military authorities in Egypt in connection with Prince Hassan's mission. The former will, it is believed, resign his post within the next three months."

The same correspondent says he has just received a few authentic particulars respecting the Mahdi's military resources:—

"They include 15,500 Egyptian regulars, who were originally taken prisoners or deserted to the Mahdi's camp. It is not known, even at English headquarters in the Soudan, how many native warriors have joined Mahomed Ahmed, but he possesses armaments for an almost unlimited number. Besides the arms and equipments of Hicks and Baker Pashas' forces, which fell into the hands of the enemy, the latter has an enormous quantity of provisions and ammunition, which the Egyptian Government had stored in Sennaar, Kordofan, and Fachoda. As far back as two years ago the Egyptian authorities at Cairo admitted that the Mahdi had captured ninety field-guns, 15,000 Remington rifles, and 3,000,000 cartridges. Since then the garrisons of Berber, Shendy, and Khartoum have capitulated. At Khartoum also the Mahdi found a vast quantity of ammunition and 5,000 to 6,000 negro troops, well armed. The rebel army is also copiously supplied with siege artillery. Both Sir Charles Wilson's and Lord Charles Beresford's steamers were fired upon by heavy riverain batteries. There are a large number of Turkish and Arab officers with the Mahdi. The black recruits are drilled by fugitives from Arabi's army, and the Mahdi's artillery is worked by Turkish Topekis, who are held to be the best marksmen in the world."

The Grenadiers and the Shropshire Regiment have arrived at Souakim. The troops are looking forward to their advance against Osman Digna, and the bold attacks which the enemy make almost nightly increase their desire to give them a lesson.

The *Morning Post* correspondent at Korti telegraphs that the Mudir of Dongola, who has reached Hamdab, has written to Lord Wolseley stating that the natives of the Shagiyeh country are dismayed at the retreat of our forces, and are naturally fearing that the Mahdi may advance upon them. A number of dervishes are at Wady Bishari, with a large body of rebels under their command, but it is believed that they have no intention of advancing or of trying to hamper our retiring troops. Lord Charles Beresford's Naval Brigade will, it is understood, be shortly broken up.

A Parliamentary paper has been issued containing the articles of agreement between the Government and Messrs. Lucas and Aird, in respect of the construction of the Souakim-Berber Railway. The agents, as the contractors are described, are to construct "for the War Department for the purposes of the expeditionary force sent out to Souakim, and according to the orders and under the control of the general officer for the time being in command of the same force, a 4ft. 8½in. gauge single line of railway from Souakim and thence in sections to and so far towards Berber as may from time to time be ordered in writing by the Secretary of State, and also an 18in. gauge single line of railway in or about Souakim, as may from time to time be ordered by the Secretary of State. The War Department engages to keep the way clear and the working staff protected." The agents are to supply plant of working staff, and, with regard to the latter, are at liberty, with the consent of the War Secretary, to employ natives as labourers. The staff will be paid by the Government, and rationed and clothed by the War Department. If any of the working staff shall be killed by the enemy in the Soudan, or die from wounds, or from the effect of the climate, his representatives shall be entitled to a gratuity equal to one year's pay. The agents are to receive a commission of 2 per cent. upon all expenditure by the War Department, such commission, however, not to exceed in the whole £20,000; and they will be entitled to a further sum not exceeding £20,000 if the railways shall be satisfactorily completed in the judgment of the Secretary of State. There is a condition that the contract shall not be sub-let.

The following return has been issued of the loss of life during the English occupation of Egypt in the British army from July, 1882, to March, 1884, including the naval and Indian contingents:—Bombardment of Alexandria, five killed, twenty-seven wounded; Kassassin, sixteen killed, 162 wounded; Tel-el-Kebir, seventy-six killed, 387 wounded; El Teb, thirty-five killed, 155 wounded; Tamasi, 107 killed, 116 wounded; miscellaneous, sixteen killed, sixty-eight wounded; total, 255 killed, 915 wounded. In addition there died of their wounds, sixty-five; died, excluding only those killed in battle, 871; invalided home from other causes than wounds, 4,405.

"Newspapers," so Lady Brassey has been informed by one of the army surgeons in the Soudan, "are as much needed as medicines." One does not quite know (says the *Pall Mall*) whether to take the comparison as a compliment or not; for medicines are generally like Nebuchadnezzar's "unaccustomed food:" they "may be wholesome, but they are not good." One thing only seems certain, that if newspapers are to be sent out to the scene of war by way of a tonic they should be carefully edited—all reports of Parliamentary debates, for instance, and most leading articles, should be carefully excluded. The public, however, may well leave Lady Brassey full powers of discretion in this matter. She has kindly undertaken to pack and forward newspapers, chessboards, and the like to Korti, Wady Halfa, Souakim, and other places where camps and hospitals may be formed. We shall all see to it, we feel sure, that her hands are kept busy. Lady Brassey's address is 24, Park-lane, W., and Mrs. R. H. Jelf, South Camp, Aldershot, is also collecting illustrated papers for the same good purpose.

The sixth volume of Gordon's diary has arrived in London, together with other papers. The diary is stated to be of the highest possible interest. It is written upon the backs of Egyptian telegraph forms and bound together with strong twine. It is full of illustrations, and in style is highly characteristic. Evidently on the 14th of December, when the diary closes, General Gordon had little hope that relief would reach him in time.

The following letter has been addressed by the Marquis Tseng, Chinese Envoy Extraordinary in England, to General Sir Henry Gordon, G.C.B., as the representative of the family of his lamented brother:—

"*Chinese Legation, March* 5, 1885.—Sir,—On behalf of the Chinese Government, the civil and military authorities of China, more especially the Viceroys of the provinces of Chihli, Nankin, and Canton, and of the whole Chinese people, I beg to offer you and the other members of your family my sympathetic condolence on the occasion of the death of your brother, the heroic General Gordon. I should have done so sooner had it not been that, hoping against hope, I have up to the present been reluctant to believe that no one so brave, so fertile in resource, and so nobly disinterested as your brother had at last perished. Even when the fall of Khartoum could no longer be doubted, I still refused to believe in the death of its brave defender, or that by the rude besieging hordes the life of the soldier of so many virtues should not have been held sacred. I offer you the tribute of sympathy, sorrow, and admiration, as the Minister of a country for which your brother fought and bled, and in which his name will be for ever honoured.—Believe me to be, Sir, your most obedient servant, Tseng."

Sir Henry Gordon in his reply, after thanking the Marquis for his letter, says: "You may be assured that no one ever took a deeper or more affectionate interest in the Chinese people and their true welfare and happiness than my brother, both in his public life and in his private associations."

A further supplementary estimate has been issued to make provision for a grant to the family of the late General Gordon. The sum required is £20,000, which will be paid to trustees, and will be applied by them for the benefit of General Gordon's family (in accordance, as far as possible, with his last wishes), in such a manner as Her Majesty may direct.

Slowly but surely—one by one—all the grave consequences of an unsmashed Mahdi, foretold from the first by General Gordon, are beginning to fulfil themselves before an incredulous world. That this movement, if successful, could not be confined to the Soudan, nor even to Africa, but would soon cross the Red Sea, was one of the despised axioms of the initiated, and we are seeing the truth of it established at this moment. Over and over again during the past eighteen months have there been rumours of disaffection and threatened rising in Yemen, but they have blown over. Now, however, the fate of Khartoum threatens to bring matters to a head. A proclamation of the Mahdi, denouncing the Caliph as a mere tool of the infidel, is going the round of Western Arabia, and the Governors of Yemen and the Hedjaz are crying out for help from Constantinople. When we are, as we soon shall be once more, fighting for our lives against the Mahdi, there are one or two other things we shall be fighting for at the same time—not only Egypt, but Tripoli and all Northern Africa, and, perhaps, the very existence of the Caliphate itself. The friendship of Turkey, whatever it may be worth, should not be very hard to secure under the circumstances.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

SOME REMINISCENCES OF GENERAL GORDON.

Considerable interest has been aroused during the past week by the publication of a very interesting little pamphlet, in which the Rev. Reginald Barnes and Major Brown have supplied a valuable contribution to Gordon literature. Mr. Barnes made the General's acquaintance at Lausanne in 1880, not knowing for many days who he was, but struck by his manner and appearance. He seemed "as gentle as he was strong, and there was tenderness in the tones of his rich voice" and the glance of his delicately expressive blue eyes. The friendship thus commenced continued to the last, and it was from the hands of Mr. Barnes that the General received his last communication. The pamphlet, which is published by Messrs. Macmillan, contains not only reminiscences of General Gordon's conversations both as to his outer and his inner life, but also some interesting letters written by him while he was on his way to the Soudan, from which it appears that he had not been asked by the English Government to undertake only a mission of advice, and that it was distinctly understood from the beginning that he was to effect the evacuation of the Soudan. In the first letter, dated "Mont Cenis, 19-1-84," General Gordon says:—"I left last night for the Soudan to arrange for evacuation. . . . . Ministers said they were determined to evacuate. Would I go and superintend it? I said, 'Yes.'" In the second letter, written "At Sea, 22-1-84," General Gordon states:—

"You must be told shortly what passed. You know Wolseley sent a telegram to me at your house, but I did not know it until Sunday. He said, 'Come up at once.' This telegram came when I was so bothered that I said to my sister—'I will fly on Wednesday, the 16th, to Brussels;' so I said to Wolseley, 'I will come up on Tuesday, the 15th, and go to Brussels on the 16th.' I reached London at 2 p.m., Tuesday, stayed with Wolseley in Wolseley's office from 2 till 5 p.m., while he talked to Ministers. Nothing, however, came of it; so I said, 'I will go to Brussels.' I did not see Ministers. I consequently went to Brussels on Wednesday, and got there Wednesday night. At noon on Thursday I got telegram from Wolseley, saying, 'Come over at once;' so I saw the King, who did not like my going, and left Brussels at 8 p.m. Thursday, reaching London at 6 a.m. Friday. I saw Wolseley at 8 a.m. He said nothing was settled, but Ministers would see me at 3.30 p.m. No one knew I had come back. At noon he, Wolseley, came for me, and took me to Ministers. He went in and talked to the Ministers, and came back and said, 'Her Majesty's Government want you to understand this—Government are determined to evacuate Soudan, for they will not guarantee future government. Will you go and do it?' I said 'Yes.' He said, 'Go in.' I went in and saw them. They said, 'Did Wolseley tell you our orders?' I said, 'Yes.' I said, 'You will not guarantee future government of Soudan, and you wish me to go up to evacuate now.' They said 'Yes,' and it was over, and I left at 8 p.m. for Calais. Very little passed between us. The Duke and Wolseley came to see me off, so that is over. . . . Lord Granville thanked me for going very nicely. Government are right, if they will not guarantee future government of Soudan, to evacuate it."

A characteristic postscript to this letter adds:—"The Hosts are with me—Mahanaim;" and Mr. Barnes explains that this was a favourite word of Gordon's.

On the 19th of February Mr. Barnes received from Gordon the following, written on a postcard on the 1st of that month:—

"Arrived borders of Desert; am quite well. Hosts with me through your kind prayers. I do not believe in advance of Mahdi, who is nephew to my old guide in Darfur, who was a very good fellow. The little letter your children gave me is now before me. I shall have no 'eating' (Holy Communion) in Soudan. The Roman Catholic priests have all left, and are at Assouan. Several will want copies of the book. It must be all on the point 'God in you.' I see 28th of January Psalm is 'Remember David and all his trouble'—how he sware he would find habitations (tabernacles) for the Mighty God, who is houseless if not in our hearts. Kindest regards to you all, and to Mr. Maclelland, to the Bishop and Mrs. Temple. I am very hopeful, for men's hearts are in His hand.—C. G. Gordon."

Gordon wrote from Abu Ahmed to Mr. Barnes on the 8th of February:—

"Thanks to all your kind prayers, we arrived safely here yesterday. People are quite quiet, and all seems hopeful. Evidently the defeat of Hicks has been much less thought of here than at Cairo, and now it seems as if it would be more difficult to get the Egyptian element out of Soudan than I expected, for they will not go. They think that things will settle down, and wish to stay. I hope (D.V.) that in a month the country will be quiet, and the roads open. The cold was great in Desert at night, and heat ditto by day. It is a terrible Desert (between Korosko and Abu Ahmed), worse than any in the Soudan. . . . I am glad to have come, for somehow I think God will bless my mission."

On the 24th of February Gordon wrote as follows:—

"An eventful day in 1870 for all your circle. [The reference is to the birthday of Angela Annie Barnes.] I hope God will bless you all. I am all right, but there is no 'eating' up here, which I miss. Things look settling down a little, but I have a weight on me at times very heavily, and the natural infirmity of human nature brings me down. It is as well it should be so, for the forbidden fruit is glorying in self, which one is prone to do. Herod was eaten by worms for not giving glory to God when the people cheered him. I have no time.—C. G. Gordon."

Gordon's last note to Mr. Barnes, dated the 6th of March, ended with the words, "Let no news from hence move you. He over-rules all for good."

These extracts serve better than anything else to show what the General's instructions were, and the spirit in which he went about them. But there is much else of a deep and personal interest in the little pamphlet, which, published as it is so opportunely, is sure to command a very large circulation.

The *Morning Post*, by permission, publishes the following most interesting letter, which was written by General Gordon during the later days of the siege of Khartoum to a military officer residing in Cairo:—

"*Khartoum*, 26, 11, '84.

"My dear ——,—Thanks for your letter, which I received yesterday. The steamer which brought it had to run the gauntlet of no end of rifle fire and of six guns. She was struck three times by shells, but only seven were wounded. I hope you and Mrs. —— are well. I am not ill-treated, I consider; but the Cairo people up here, they are the ill-used. I will accept nothing whatever from Gladstone's Government. I will not even let them pay my expenses. I will get the King to pay them. I will never put foot in England again, but will (D.V., if I get out) go to Brussels, and so on to Congo. How is ——? I greatly fear for Stewart, Power, and Herbin, French Consul. With kindest regards, believe me, yours sincerely, with kindest regards to Mrs. ——, "C. G. Gordon."

Daylight in Warehouses.—Chappuis' Reflectors. 69, Fleet-street.

THE CAMEROONS.

Intelligence from the West Coast of Africa received in London early this week was to the effect that the Germans had hauled down the British flag at Victoria, a settlement situated at the head of Ambas Bay in the Little Cameroons District, and formally taken over as part of the dominions of Her Majesty the Queen by Consul Hewitt on the 19th of last July, and had hoisted the German flag in its place.

With regard to this incident the Government have, it is stated, received from the German Government the most satisfactory assurances. Prince Bismarck, whilst disclaiming all knowledge of the alleged insult to the British flag, has intimated to Her Majesty's Government, in unequivocal language, that he has no desire to dispute the validity of English claims to that settlement, which, indeed, he has already formally recognised. Should the report of the hauling down of the British flag be confirmed, the German Government will at once disavow the action of its agents, and take such steps as may be necessary to prevent a recurrence of such a misunderstanding.

In connection with Count Herbert Bismarck's visit to London, it is stated that he has obtained everything he has demanded of the English Government, and an outline of the concession made by Lord Granville on the West African coast, which shows that England has abandoned about eighty miles of this vast territory in favour of Germany—namely, from the Victoria settlement to the Rio del Rey, including the small port of Bota, in Ambas Bay. That the cession to Germany is one of an important character may be judged from Lord Granville's own words. Writing on the 21st of February, his Lordship says:—"The readiness of her Majesty's Government to settle any question of frontier in the Cameroons by means of a local commission was only intended to apply to the boundaries between Bimbia and Ambas Bay settlements, and could not be extended to the west, where there can be no question as to the frontiers." In the agreement with Count Herbert Bismarck, not only has Lord Granville ceded the strip of country between the Victoria settlement and Bimbia, but has in addition surrendered British claims to the territory fifty miles west of that place—namely, from Bimbia to the Rio del Rey, about which his Lordship wrote a week or two previously that there could be "no question as to the frontiers."

In the course of an interview on Thursday morning, the Rev. Mr. Baynes, secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society, stated definitely that Bota was a portion of the territory originally conceded to their Society, and formed part of the Victoria settlement, over which her Majesty assumed the sovereignty at the express request of the Society. He held that the Cabinet had no right to cede Bota and the territory owned by the Society without at any rate consulting them as to the effects of the proposed cession, and he feared that those effects would be of a very grave character. The traders in the Victoria settlement depended, of course, for their commercial prosperity on the interior, and the profitable markets existing there would be entirely cut off by the cession to Germany. The inhabitants of the ceded districts beyond Bota had always looked upon themselves as British subjects. A British Consul had administered justice, and treaties had been negotiated with many petty chiefs along the coast, but by the agreement with Germany all this is changed, and the natives would lose confidence in England and in England's good faith. Germany with her prohibitive tariff would cut off all English trade and transfer it to the hands of German traders. Many would be thereby ruined. Mr. Baynes hoped that the representations which his Society would make would have the effect of preventing the carrying out of a policy which must have disastrous effects upon English commerce and native faith in England.

In a letter of the special correspondent of the *Cologne Gazette*, dated Bimba, January 19, a comic side of this serious business of the Cameroons is brought out with unconscious humour. On the slopes of the great mountain block to the north of the Cameroon river are a number of independent villages lying at about equal distances from Bimbia, the German settlement on the south, and Victoria, the English settlement on the north, of Man-of-war Bay. Among these villages a sort of three-cornered annexing match has been going on between certain persons from Victoria on behalf of England, the correspondent of the *Cologne Gazette* on behalf of Germany, and the Pole Rogozinski—for the present at any rate—on behalf of himself. And a rare scramble it seems to have been. The correspondent appears from his own account to have succeeded by forced marches in annexing, on an average, two or three villages daily. On one occasion, the 8th of January, as he was pelting along from an annexed village, Mapanja, where he had just concluded a treaty with the chiefs, to another village, Lecumbi, where he meant to repeat the same performance, and had just got to a slight elevation overlooking the place, what was his disgust to see Rogozinski running up his flag on the opposite hill! On another occasion the rival annexers met on the way, going in opposite directions, but only glared at one another and passed by. One or two more incidents in this famous annexing tour of the *Cologne Gazette's* correspondent are worth noticing. He was too late at Lecumbi, as we have seen, and when he tried to get the chiefs to sign a document repudiating Rogozinski's action he found that none of them could be induced to touch a pen. Why? Because the emissaries of perfidious Albion had convinced them that whosoever took a pen into his hand would surely die. At Bwea again the correspondent could not gain his object, the real cause of disagreement being that the German would not pay the price the natives wanted; but this he will not admit. No. They were coming down to his terms, when the emissaries of England again appeared on the scene and announced that the correspondent had killed five natives with his own hand. But though the Bwea people objected so much to murder that they declined to sell their land to the reputed murderer, they were quite willing to put themselves under his protection. They even implored him to hoist the German flag. But he had no bunting in his pocket, not even an available pocket-

handkerchief. So Bwea, it would appear, will remain independent, till it is visited by some German gentleman who is not devoid of that simple article of luxury.

In an article in the *Standard* much interesting information is given about the "oil rivers" and the delta of the Cameroons. It says that a more gloomy and depressing region than the delta of the "oil rivers" it would be hard to conceive. As far as the eye reaches stretch mangrove swamps, intersected by foul creeks, bordered on either side by expanses of fetid mud, on which bask swarms of crocodiles. Fever is endemic. It is never healthy in the Bights—though sometimes it is a little less pestilental than at other times. Wherever there is any dry land a native town, squalid, filthy, and enervating, is established, and opposite these villages are moored the hulks in which the traders live after their fashion, do business, and often die. Palm oil is the great commerce of "the rivers;" but cam-wood, cocoa-nut kernels, and ivory also reach the hulks through the intermediary of middlemen, who in this manner tithe the profits of the up-river tribes, and in turn sell to them the cottons, brass wire, gunpowder, and cheap rum which form the chief articles of barter. The same picture might serve for the Cameroons, where the rivers discharge themselves into the sea. Some places are a little better, few much worse, and here and there may be found, between the rivers, localities not only beautiful, but even fairly salubrious. The interior grows healthier the further it is penetrated, and the higher it rises above the sea, until at the summit of the Cameroons Mountains, 12,930ft. high, the traveller is in an atmosphere as healthy as that of Madeira, and in a region infinitely more invigorating than the cinder heap at Ascension whither our sailors are taken to recover from the fevers of the Gulf of Guinea. The Great Cameroon, indeed, which was ascended on the 12th of last December by Dr. Zöller, M. Jenikovski and M. Rogozinski, is declared to attain a height of 14,000ft. The natives know it as Mongo-ma-loba, the "Mountain of the Gods," and a heavenly mount it unquestionably is to the languid European, though to the tribes from the plains below the cool breezes are intolerable. When Dr. Zöller's party left the Bay of Ambas, the thermometer registered 97deg. in the shade; on the summit it stood at 37deg. All the way led through luxuriant forest, full of fresh elephant tracks, and scattered with large numbers of wild coffee-trees, laden with fruit—not of the Liberian, but of the Arabian kind. Altogether the "Mountain of the Gods" is too valuable a property to be lightly parted with. There is not a great deal to be said in favour of the delta of the Cameroons. It is not an agreeable region, nor a healthy. Up the Cameroons, Lungasi, and Edea Rivers, there may possibly be mines—for the land is almost unexplored. As yet, however, mineral wealth, except in the shape of a little gold-dust, has not been discovered. Waterways thread the lower country everywhere, and mangrove swamps cover nearly the whole of that portion which is not entirely the domain of the water. Beyond the swampy region, red clayey ground gradually rises to various heights up to sixty feet, affording sites for the "towns" nearest the sea coast such as Mungo, Hickory, Bell Town, Akwa Town, the Bassa Towns, and those of Yansocki and Yabakalaki. Beyond the clayey country comes another swampy belt, intersected by creeks, and further still the hilly country covered with dense forest, and dotted with the Balung, Abo, Budiman, and Lungasi "Towns," but, except by water, it is impossible to reach the colonisable district. The native tribes show a wide diversity in their pursuits. The mountain men, for example, are hunters and cattle breeders. The Mungo people make canoes. The Balungs have large farms and carry on a considerable trade. The Abo are keen hunters and skilled handicraftsmen, while the Wuri tribes do little else than barter with their neighbours. There is everywhere the material for a considerable commerce; but until the coast people cease to have the monopoly of acting as middlemen the interior products can never reach the sea at a profit. The coast tribes refuse to permit the up-country people to go on board a ship, or into a trading factory; and so strictly is this unwritten rule carried out that it is doubtful, the *Standard* says, whether any power will ever break it down, or clear away the obstacles which prevent the white traders passing the barriers which their native rivals have reared against all attempts to reach their inland customers.

At the present moment the following sketch of a trader's life on the Cameroons, given by a correspondent of the *St. James's Gazette*, who for some years has had the management of a trading station on the banks of the Cameroons river, will not be without interest. He writes thus to our contemporary:—

"Our factory here is a veritable fortress. The substructure is of stone, and rises to a height of about eight feet from the ground. This portion of the building is our main store-room for valuables, inflammables, and explosives; and, as it may also at any moment have to serve as a citadel, it is windowless. The door is of ironwood, braced outside with iron and inside with heavy baulks of timber; and I fancy that it is substantial enough to resist a ball from a small field-gun. On the top of the substructure is a strong wooden building; the windows of which can be closed with thick shutters, and the roof of which is concreted, for coolness as well as for dryness and general safety. Once a year I coat the whole house with fire-proof paint; and you will understand that the precaution is a wise one when I tell you that I sleep over about half a ton of gunpowder and that the natives are inclined to incendiarism. These fellows cause me never-ceasing anxieties. We employ from fifty to a hundred of them, and they are a standing danger. I am obliged to be perpetually prowling about, by night as well as by day, in order to ensure that nothing shall be stolen. It is necessary for me to chain up any animal that I desire to keep. If I merely tether it with a rope, it disappears almost immediately, and I never see it again. Yet even if the niggers would permit me to get an occasional undisturbed night's rest, the sandflies and other insects would keep me awake during half the hours of darkness. There is absolutely no way of getting rid of these pests, and they often worry me into temporary madness. There are snakes too. I had almost forgotten to mention fever in the catalogue of the many resident evils; but the fact is that fever is so common that, practically, it becomes chronic with most of the Europeans here. You can have it any number of times; and, if it does not stick to you indefinitely, it is liable to become periodic. A few minutes' exposure to the evening mist brings it on. I think that we should be less subject to it if we could live better; but, since the place produces nothing edible save fruits, we have to exist mainly upon ships' provisions. The natives eat fish, but the local fish is poisonous to us. I have tried to grow potatoes. The plants come up, and the haulms are everything that one can wish; but, alas! there are no tubers. I have also tried to grow corn. Again the plants come up beautifully; but there are no ears: everything runs to straw. I believe, however, that potatoes are now being successfully grown up in the hills.

"The niggers here have all the ruder and coarser vices. They work only while you overlook them; and the labour of ten of them could be done better and more speedily by a couple of whites. The other day half a dozen of them struggled for five minutes to lift a barrel which two of us handled easily. And yet these niggers sometimes execute extraordinary feats; as when, for instance they have committed a robbery, and are making off laden with booty. They have little regard for the sanctity of human life, and will stab or shoot you almost as soon as look at you.

"Trade has been very dull ever since the Germans came here. Our saleable articles are cheap cottons, rum, firearms, ammunition, gaudily coloured coats and hats, knives, scissors, brass rings, looking-glasses, boots, glass, pearls, and commoner beads, coral, earthenware, beer, sugar, tobacco, coal, paints, and patent medicines. Cotton goods that on some parts of the coast are worth ten times their weight in gold are here valueless. Just now the people seem to like striped stuff in pieces of about six yards in length. The piece is divisible into six for the purposes of barter. Most of our rum (which is of low strength, but not, I think, very unwholesome) comes from Marseilles and Hamburg. Our powder, which is coarse-grained and very inferior in quality, is packed in parcels of 4lb., 10lb. and 14lb. The firearms which go to the natives are chiefly flint-locks; and they are specially made at Birmingham for the trade. Their peculiarity consists in the mechanism being made almost entirely of brass. Steel here rusts almost immediately, and, of course, the niggers have no idea of properly cleaning their weapons. A gun of this kind is worth about a gallon of rum, or twenty-four yards of cotton, or fourteen pounds of powder. Its value may be four or five shillings. I do not permit a purchaser to fire the weapon while I am near him; for I fancy that the bursting-charge is low, and the necessary dangers of my post are so numerous that I cannot afford to expose myself to extra ones. I believe, however, that our guns are looked upon with particular favour by local connoisseurs.

"In exchange for these things we get gypsum, sulphate of magnesia, sulphur, rock-salt, iron, asphalte, copper, lead, silver, and gold-dust among mineral products; and, among animal products, ivory, ostrich feathers, and hides; the chief vegetable products being manioc-root, coffee, cocoa, sugar-cane, ginger, ground-nuts, pepper, palm nuts, palm oil, papyrus shrub, cocoa fibre, and palm leaves. The three last are valuable for the manufacture of paper and rope. We also get indiarubber and gum copal. Trade is done chiefly by barter; but we have some money transactions, and in these cases American gold coins are the medium of exchange. The business is in itself a very remunerative one; but we occasionally suffer considerable losses, owing to the fact that we are obliged to make advances to the native dealers. These fellows will go elsewhere if we do not humour them; and, if we do humour them, they not unfrequently get all they can out of us and then decamp. The Germans seem to be in high spirits about their new colony; but, all things considered, I think that England may be congratulated that she has been relieved from the duty of holding and governing this fever-stricken purgatory."

IRELAND.

Arrangements for the Prince of Wales's visit are nearly complete. The Prince and Princess of Wales, Prince Albert Victor, and Prince George of Wales, on disembarking at Kingstown on the 8th of April, will proceed by special train to Westland Row, and thence, escorted by a guard of honour, drive to Dublin Castle, the streets being lined by military. The same day the Royal Dublin Society's Agricultural Show at Ballsbridge will be visited. On Thursday there will be a Levée and Drawing Room on behalf of the Queen at Dublin Castle. On Friday, the Prince of Wales will lay the foundation-stone of the Science and Art Museum at Kildare-place, visit Lord Powerscourt at his residence, near Bray, and preside at a State Banquet at Dublin Castle. On Monday, the 13th, their Royal Highnesses will visit Convamore, near Mallow, to sojourn with the Earl and Countess of Listowel until the following Thursday. Meantime they will visit Cork, probably on Tuesday, and the following day the Marquis of Waterford at Curraghmore. On Thursday they will go to Killarney, where they will be the guests of the Lord-Lieutenant and Countess Spencer at the Earl of Kenmare's beautiful residence. On Monday they return to Dublin, staying at the Viceregal Lodge, Phœnix Park, for the Punchestown Races, which will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday. On Thursday, the 23rd, they go to Belfast, sleeping that night on board the Royal yacht. On Saturday they will proceed to Baron's Court, the seat of the Duke of Abercorn. The present intention is to proceed to Belfast and cross in the Royal yacht to Stranraer. Future plans, however, may involve a return to Dublin, and their Royal Highnesses embark once more on board the Royal yacht for England. Dublin University, the Royal Dublin Society, the Royal Agricultural Society, the Royal Hibernian Academy, the Royal Irish Academy, the Royal Zoological Society, and the Kingstown and Bray Commissioners will present addresses of welcome. The Kildare-street, Sackville-street, University, and the United Service Clubs are organising a ball to be given in the Rotunda.

The scheme for paying Irish members of Parliament is being carried into effect. The county Wexford committee have decided to close their fund. Forty branches of the National League in the county have succeeded in raising, by church collections and other means, £1,200; and it has been decided to send to each of the Nationalist members for county Wexford one-fourth of this sum.

In Dublin, on Tuesday, after a celebration of High Mass to invoke the Divine aid on the election, the Canons and parish priests forming the electoral body for the arch-diocese of Dublin sat with closed doors to vote for an Archbishop, in the Pro-Cathedral, Marlborough-street. The public were admitted for the solemn Mass of the Holy Ghost, after which all save those entered to vote and the presiding prelate, the senior Bishop of the province, the Most Rev. Dr. Walshe, withdrew. The members of the Chapter and the parish priests of the diocese marched in procession to the Cathedral. The proceedings lasted an hour, and the voting was as follows:—Rev. Dr. Walshe, President of Maynooth, 46 votes; Rev. Dr. Donnelly, Assistant Bishop of Dublin, 12; Rev. Dr. Tynan, Secretary to the late Cardinal M'Cabe, 3; and the Most Rev. Dr. Woodlock, Bishop of Ardagh, 2. The result of the voting will be forwarded to the Pope.

A demonstration against the Lord Mayor of Dublin took place on Sunday evening, on the arrival in that city of the remains of the Rev. Dr. Cahill, an Irish priest, who died in America. The body was brought over for interment in Glasnevin Cemetery, and about 8,000 persons, with bands and mourning emblems, took part in a procession, while large crowds lined the streets. The Lord Mayor attended at the railway terminus in his carriage, and received the American deputation. He was vigorously hissed and groaned at, and after driving a short distance with the procession he turned and drove in another direction. The Lord Mayor's secretary denies that any threatening letters have been received.

A correspondence has taken place between the Very Rev. Dean Quirk, P.P., of Cashel, and the Chief Secretary in reference to the intrusion of policemen into a meeting of the National League recently held in that town. Mr. Campbell-Bannerman explained that the police had been sent in consequence of a resolution passed at a previous meeting distinctly advising that boycotting should be carried out, and that the constables were not expressly requested to withdraw, but committed an error of judgment in remaining after they saw that their presence was objected to.

Imperial Parliament.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Monday.

Lord Henniker called attention to the subject of railway rates, arguing that the uncertainty and want of uniformity now existing in respect of those rates was injurious to the agriculture and commerce of this country. He suggested that the Government should propose legislation on the matter in a general Bill, and he moved for a copy of certain judgments of the Railway Commissioners. Lord Sudeley, replying for the Board of Trade, stated that it was thought by that Department of the Government that an attempt at legislation would not be successful unless preceded by an inquiry conducted by some body on which the railway companies and their customers were fairly represented. After a short conversation, in which Lord Huntly, Lord Salisbury, and Lord Granville took part, the motion, in an amended form, was agreed to.

Lord Morley, replying to Lord Harris, stated that there would be two days' extra troop drills for the Yeomanry this year, and 3s. 6d. per day for man and horse would be allowed for this extra drill. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners Bill was read a third time and passed.

Their Lordships rose at a quarter to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Monday.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice, answering a question from Mr. Labouchere as to communications between the Foreign Secretary and Count Münster and Count H. Bismarck, read a letter from Lord Granville, in which he stated that the despatch of May 5 had never been given to him, but that Count Münster and Count H. Bismarck had shortly afterwards stated to him that Germany could not pursue a friendly policy towards us in Egypt if we acted in an unfriendly manner towards her in colonial affairs. In answer to that he had disclaimed any unfriendliness, and, though there had been susequently some difference of opinion whether those disclaimers had been carried out, he believed the friction had now disappeared. In answer to Sir B. Samuelson, Mr. Chamberlain said he understood that the railway companies would not press their Rates Bills until after Easter; and Dr. Cameron having declined an appeal from Sir E. Reed to yield the priority which he had obtained on the Navy Estimates in order that his vote of censure on the Admiralty might come on, Sir E. Reed gave notice that on Thursday he will ask the Prime Minister to give facilities for it.

The House having gone into Committee of Supply, Lord Hartington moved the Army Supplementary Estimates of 3,000 men and £942,000 for the new operations at Souakim. Of this sum, £270,000, he explained, is for ordinary expenditure, and £672,000 for extraordinary expenditure, and he stated that as far as the accounts had come in, and in the opinion of his financial advisers, the sums of £300,000 and £1,000,000 already voted would cover the expenditure on the Nile Expedition up to the end of the financial year. Having given eloquent expression to the sense entertained by the Government and the country of the high military qualities shown by our officers, he proceeded to give an outline of the projected operations at Souakim. A force of 12,000 men or thereabouts is to be sent to Souakim—of British troops, four squadrons of cavalry, one horse artillery battery, one screw battery and one garrison battery, three companies of Engineers, three battalions of Foot Guards, three of the Line and one of Marines, besides Commissariat, Staff, &c. There would also be a native contingent of one regiment of cavalry, three battalions of infantry, and one company of sappers. The immediate object of the expedition would be to disperse the forces of Osman Digma, to prevent their concentration anew, to open the road to Berber, and to co-operate with Lord Wolseley in the event of his advancing on Khartoum. The railway which it was intended to build from Berber would be of great assistance to the expedition—in fact, might be regarded as indispensable. It would be a military line, and, in addition, the Nile Railway was to be extended, and lines were to be laid down to turn the cataracts, and barges towed by steamers were to be placed in the river. He then touched on the military measures to be taken next year, which were not provided for in any way in these estimates. The regimental depôts of the 16 battalions abroad would be raised to 600, which would require 8,000 men; the battalions next on the roster for foreign service would be raised to the highest establishment, which would require 2,600 men; 1,180 would be added to the Foot Guards; a depôt of 110 men would have to be formed for the 19th Hussars, who were in Egypt, but ought to be at home, and it would be necessary to replace the men drawn from other cavalry regiments to serve in Egypt. Finally he explained the measures for calling out the Militia Artillery and Infantry. Mr. Ashmead Bartlett took occasion to protest against the abandonment of the garrison of Kassala, and while denouncing in vigorous terms the premature declarations of the Prime Minister about the abandonment of the Soudan, which had doubled the difficulties of the task, expressed a hope that the new expedition would not be a repetition of the wanton and wicked slaughter of the last Souakim campaign. Mr. Labouchere repeated his opinion that the best way out of the difficulty would be to withdraw Lord Wolseley and his army, and expressed a doubt whether the Government really meant to go to Khartoum. Sir W. Barttelot condemned in strong terms the reckless declarations of the Prime Minister, the delay and the vacillation which had cost so many lives, and insisted that the Government before taking this vote ought to state distinctly what it was going to do. Sir J. Lubbock deprecated the attack on the Prime Minister, and contending that we had no interests which would justify a re-conquest of the Soudan, asked whether, having regard to the aspect of affairs in Russia, it was desirable to incur further responsibilities in Egypt. Mr. Chaplin animadverted upon the inconsistency of Sir J. Lubbock's votes and speeches, and he described Lord Hartington's speech as one of probabilities. He criticised in vigorous language the general policy of the Government in Egypt, and condemned the uncertain and conflicting speeches of Ministers as great cruelty to our forces in the Soudan. Mr. W. Fowler protested against the present policy of going forward. Our intention was, he said, to rescue Gordon; but as that object was now out of the question he deprecated involving the country in such stupendous operations as those contemplated simply for the purpose of showing our power and of going to Khartoum and coming back again. Mr. Dalrymple thought the Government should give more information as to their policy; and, after some observations from Sir G. Balfour, Captain Aylmer, and Sir A. Gordon, Mr. Gladstone declined to deal with the attacks which had been made upon him, and, in reply to Mr. Fowler, explained that his declaration on the 19th of February was that the operations contemplated were merely due to military considerations. The present question was a narrow one, and the vote had nothing to do with going to Khartoum, which was a subject to be discussed on a future occasion. Colonel Stanley, briefly alluding to the remarks of Mr. Gladstone, expressed dissatisfaction with the information afforded by the Government, and protested against their "ultimately probable" policy. Mr. Reid and Mr. Leake made some remarks, and on a division the vote was carried by 98 to 21.

On the vote of £942,000 for military operations in the Soudan (including a sum of £100,000 for the Souakim-Berber railway), Sir J. Pease moved its reduction by the sum required for the proposed line. He repeated the arguments against the general policy of the Government in Egypt, and, having pointed out at length the difficulties of constructing the railway, protested against operations so gigantic simply for the purpose of going to Khartoum and returning. Mr. Brand denied the existence of these difficulties, and justified the construction of the railway on the ground that it was a military necessity and would reduce expenditure. He maintained also that in making the contract which had been completed with Messrs. Lucas and Aird the Government had taken the only means available for securing the construction of the line. Lord E. Cecil, while adversely criticising the policy of the Government, supported the vote on the ground of its being a military necessity. Mr. Illingworth expressed a hope that in the six months' delay which must occur the Government would change its mind as to going to Khartoum; but Mr. Gorst thought that if there was to be a change of policy the House ought to pause before sanctioning a vote which would lead to the useless slaughter of a few more thousand Arabs. Mr. Slagg believed the construction of the railway to be inexpedient and impossible, and that it was little less than madness to continue military operations in the Soudan. Though not positively advising a retreat, he thought we had enough on our hands in Egypt without embarking on fresh adventures in this region. Sir S. Northcote rapidly reviewed the recent history of events in the Soudan, to illustrate the responsibilities which the Government had undertaken towards that country. Although the House did not approve the policy of the Government they could not refuse to grant supplies for the purpose of disengaging our Army in the Soudan, and he supported the making of the railway because it would open the country and assist us in the settlement of the question. The amendment was negatived 173 to 56, and after some further conversation the vote was agreed to.

The House having resumed, Mr. J. K. Cross moved the resolution required by the Act of Parliament to sanction the employment of Indian troops in Egypt. Having referred to the various precedents for the employment of Indian troops with the British forces outside the limits of India, he explained the basis upon which the expense of such employment had been apportioned between England and India. Contending that the present campaign was of as much interest to India as was the Abyssinian expedition, he dwelt on the important assistance the Indian troops would be able to render, especially in protecting the workmen engaged in the construction of the proposed railway from Souakim to Berber. Mr. Stanhope supported the vote because he thought the Soudan was inseparably connected with the Egyptian question and India was deeply interested in Egypt. But he warned the Government that if they abandoned Egypt they would have obtained the assistanc-

of Indian troops under false pretences. Sir G. Campbell, on the contrary, opposed the vote, holding that India was not at all concerned, and that the Indian population took not the least interest in Egyptian affairs. Mr. Buchanan opposed the motion, and Mr. R. N. Fowler, while approving of the employment of Indian troops, objected to the expense falling on India. Colonel Nolan, Sir G. Balfour, Mr. Onslow, and Mr. Slagg continued the discussion, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer having replied to various questions that had been raised, the vote was agreed to on a division by 88 to 23.

After some other business the House adjourned at twenty minutes past two o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Tuesday.

Lord Granville, replying to Lord Salisbury, stated that no official information had been received by Her Majesty's Government or the German Government of the alleged hauling down of the British flag at Ambas. He was convinced, however, that the incident would lead to no disagreeable complications. Lord Milltown called attention to the case of Frederick Marshall, who, a true bill having been found against him for wilful murder, was committed to Broadmoor Asylum as a criminal lunatic by a warrant of the Secretary of State, without having been brought to trial. He asked whether there was a precedent for such a course, and he moved for a copy of the warrant. Lord Dalhousie replied that the Criminal Lunatics Act empowered the Secretary of State to issue the warrant. Lord Bramwell thought that the proper course would have been to submit to a jury the question whether Marshall was mentally capable of pleading to an indictment, and pointed out that on his trial for a criminal offence a person might be acquitted on the ground of insanity. Lord Fitzgerald and the Lord Chancellor expressed their opinion that the action of the Home Secretary was authorised by the Act.

The motion was negatived without a division.

In the Marriages Legalisation Bill and the Marriages Validity Bill the reports of amendments were agreed to.

Their Lordships rose at a quarter past five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Tuesday.

Mr. Gladstone, in answer to a question from Sir S. Northcote, stated that no confirmation had been received of the alleged hauling down of the British flag, nor had the German Embassy received any information; but it was not likely that the incident, even if there were any foundation for it, could lead to any serious difficulty. In answer to questions from Sir F. Milner and Mr. Ashmead Bartlett as to the relief of Kassala, Lord E. Fitzmaurice said that at the beginning of last month Sir E. Baring and General Stephenson had recommended that the Governor of Kassala should be informed that no expedition could be sent to his relief. The Government had also proposed that the Sultan should take possession of the Red Sea littoral, but they had no reason to suppose that the Sultan had any desire to take steps for the relief of Kassala. Mr. Gladstone, being subsequently asked whether he meant to take any steps to relieve the garrison, declined to add anything to this answer. Mr. Cross, being asked a question by Sir H. Maxwell as to the Bengal Tenancy Bill, said the Government would be glad to see a Bill passed, but they had not given any instructions to Lord Dufferin on the subject. At the conclusion of question time Sir H. Maxwell obtained leave, being supported by forty members, to move the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to the haste with which the Bengal Tenancy Bill is being pressed through the Council in Calcutta in order to enable the Government to get away to the hills. Sir G. Campbell and Mr. Macfarlane denied that there could be any hurry, inasmuch as the question had been before the Council for years. Mr. Cross said he would take steps immediately to ascertain the facts by telegraph. Mr. J. Lowther, Mr. Gladstone, and Sir S. Northcote made some observations as to the propriety of the motion, and ultimately it was negatived.

The House then went into Committee on the Redistribution Bill, and the adjourned debate on Mr. Bryce's proposal to disfranchise the Universities was resumed by Mr. Parnell, who argued the question with special reference to the University of Dublin, which he maintained was not entitled to separate representation, on the ground that it had failed to do its duty and was an institution to which only the minority of Irishmen had access. Mr. Mitchell Henry on the other side declined to believe that the majority of Irishmen would disparage the University of Dublin; and Mr. Sexton, while repudiating on behalf of the Roman Catholics the imputation of bigotry, observed that the whole social and political basis of English rule in Ireland had been to draw Catholics from their faith. On the showing of Mr. Mitchell Henry alone the University of Dublin was, to say the least, excessively represented. Mr. Gibson, while arguing that the want of adequate representation for the Church, the law, and medicine had not been sufficiently recognised, objected to the suggestion that the Universities should be represented by professors or other teachers. Turning to the remarks of Mr. Parnell he maintained that he had not represented the feelings of the Irish people in reference to the University of Dublin, and contended that as compared with the English Universities Dublin was not excessively represented. The question, he said, was not whether Dublin was to be given representation, but whether it was to be deprived of a privilege which it had possessed from the time of James I., a deprivation which, as he pointed out, was asked for mainly because the members of Dublin University refused to support the Nationalist party. After some remarks from Sir P. O'Brien, Mr. T. P. O'Connor spoke in support of Mr. Bryce's amendment, and Mr. Macartney opposed it. Mr. W. Redmond also spoke, and Colonel Colthurst instanced the Royal University of Ireland in support of his contention that Catholics could distinguish themselves when they had the opportunity of doing so. Mr. M'Carthy maintained that the Universities were no more entitled to representation that the Royal Academy or the Royal Academy of Music, and Sir F. Wilmot, on the other side, observed that the continuance of the University franchise was one of the redeeming features of the Seats Bill. The discussion was continued by Mr. Cropper, Mr. R. N. Fowler, and Mr. Gregory, who opposed the amendment, and it was supported by Mr. P. J. Power, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Kenny, and Mr. O'Brien. On a division being taken shortly before eleven, Mr. Bryce's amendment was negatived by 260 to 79. Mr. Arnold then moved an amendment to fix the line of disfranchisement at boroughs of less than 20,000 in England and Wales, and less than 15,000 in Scotland and Ireland. He made this proposal, he said, chiefly with a view to avoid the necessity of increasing the aggregate numbers of the House, as to which he thought a mischievous precedent was about to be set. By this amendment some fifteen seats would be secured without in any way disturbing the general scheme of the Government, and of these he proposed to give twelve to Scotland and the remainder to the English counties. Sir C. Dilke opposed the amendment, pointing, out, first, the already extensive disfranchisement and transfer of seats effected by the Bill, and expressing a conviction that the House would not have supported the Government had they proposed to carry the operation any further, A line must be drawn somewhere, but the point must be a matter of opinion, not of principle. It was a delusion, he showed, to suppose that the amendment would not disturb the plan of the Bill, and among other objections he pointed out that it would destroy the balance between the town and county representation. Mr. R. N. Fowler approved the course pursued by the Government in increasing the numbers of the House, but supported the amendment because it would be more likely to lead to a permanent settlement of the question. On a division the amendment was negatived by 213 to 21. Viscount Crichton moved an amendment to the clause excepting from disfranchisement towns in Ireland with a population of 10,000 or over. Sir C. Dilke opposed the amendment, and pointed out the practical difficulties which it involved, and contended that it could not be adopted unless the same principle was applied to England, which, he observed, would be most undesirable. Sir M. Hicks-Beach supported the amendment in so far as it proposed to redress the inadequate borough representation proposed by the Bill. Mr. Healy, though he denied the right of the front Opposition Bench to meddle further in the matter after the share they had in framing the Bill in Downing-street, expressed considerable sympathy with the object of the amendment. But the difficulty was to settle the counties which should supply these boroughs with members. He recognised the difficulties which the Government had met with in regard to the Irish boroughs, and opposed the amendment. He was followed on the same side by Mr. T. Dickson, Colonel Nolan, and Mr. Callan, while Mr. Macartney and Mr. Corry spoke in favour of the amendment. Mr. Warton also spoke, and Sir S. Northcote mentioned that the limit of 15,000 had been settled as a basis for both countries; but, although he could not support the amendment, he thought it possible that at a future stage some alteration might be made so as to secure for urban constituencies in Ireland a better system of representation. Mr. Sexton and Mr. Biggar continued the conversation, and on a division the amendment was negatived by 105 to 48.

Progress was then reported, and after some further business the House adjourned at half-past one o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Wednesday.

The Seats Bill was further considered in Committee. The greater part of the afternoon was occupied in the discussion of an amendment moved by Mr. Mulholland, providing for the grouping of Irish boroughs, on the ground that as the Bill stood the borough representation of Ireland would be almost entirely extinguished, and that the agricultural interest would monopolise the entire representation, to the exclusion of the professional and commercial classes. Sir C. Dilke, in opposing the amendment, expressed considerable doubts as to the soundness of the grouping principle. At any rate, he said, its working was not so satisfactory in Scotland and Wales as to encourage an extension of it. Mr. T. O'Connor, in opposing the amendment, urged that agriculture was the main industry of Ireland, and that where trade and commerce existed in the large towns of Dublin, Belfast, &c., they were already adequately represented. Colonel Nolan also opposed the amendment; Sir H. Bruce and Mr. Beresford spoke in its favour; and Mr. Shaw-Lefevre repeated the objections of Sir C. Dilke. Mr. T. Dickson, argued against the grouping of boroughs in Ireland, and Mr. Ewart complained that under the Government plan the manufacturing classes would not be fairly represented. Mr. Macartney, Mr. Sexton, and Mr. Kenny also spoke, and Mr. C. E. Lewis pointed out that the course pursued in some of the Scotch districts was inconsistent with the contention of the Government that the system of grouping was bad. Mr. Trevelyan observed that the Government were determined not to treat Ireland differently from England and Scotland, and, if anything, Ireland had been treated more favourably than the rest of the kingdom. He denied the assertion of Mr. Lewis that the Bill favoured grouping, and contended that the case of Warwick and Leamington, which had been frequently referred to in the debates, was the only instance which could be quoted in its support. Lord J. Manners failed to see that the Government had shown any hostility to the principle of grouping, and having suggested that the Government should give way upon the point, Sir C. Dilke intimated that if there was a general feeling in favour of adding to the areas of some of the urban constituencies in Ireland, the Government would consider the question with a view to an alteration being made hereafter in the schedules. After a few words from Mr. Hicks and Mr. Deasy, the amendment was rejected by 183 to 93. After this Mr. Dalrymple moved an amendment providing for the extension of the grouping system in order to save boroughs under 15,000 from disfranchisement. Sir C. Dilke admitted the existence of legitimate dissatisfaction with the present system of grouping in Scotland, but pointed out that a better opportunity for raising a discussion would be on the schedules, when, he said, the Government would be glad to hear the opinions of the Scotch members. The discussion was continued by Mr. Orr-Ewing, Mr. Parker, Mr. Cochran-Patrick, Mr. Buchanan, Sir J. Hay, the Lord Advocate, Mr. Bolton, and Mr. R. P. Bruce, and in the end the amendment was negatived without a division. Clause 2 was agreed to, and progress was then reported.

The House adjourned at ten minutes to six o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.—Thursday.

The Marriages Validity Bill was read a third time and passed.

Lord Wemyss, who had on the paper a question regarding the publication and circulation of the Bengal Tenancy Bill before it was passed into law, stated that a telegraphic message from India in the *Times* of that morning showed that the measure had already passed. He complained that it had been hurried through its stages with undue haste, and that it was unjust to the zemindars because of its extending to India the principles of the Irish land legislation of the present Government. Lord Ellenborough regarded it as a most unfortunate occurrence that such a Bill had been hurried through. Lord Kimberley read a telegram from the Governor-General of India stating that the Bill had been printed in the vernacular languages; that there had been a very large number of meetings of the Committee on the measure; and that it had passed without a division after seven days' debate. The noble Lord then went into a statistical review of the progress of the Bill, to show that it had undergone an extraordinary amount of deliberation instead of having been hurried through. The principle of the Bill had the entire concurrence of Her Majesty's Government, and he certainly should not advise Her Majesty to exercise her Royal prerogative to prevent it from coming into operation. Lord Ripon expressed his opinion that if ever a Bill had been thoroughly considered and discussed it was in this instance, and that the changes in the measure in favour of the zemindar interest had been carried too far. Lord Galloway asked whether it was the intention of the Government to propose a vote of thanks to Lord Wolseley and the forces under his command for the able manner in which the military expeditionary force was conducted for the intended rescue of the late General Gordon and his garrison at Khartoum. Lord Morley replied that, with the highest appreciation of what had been done by Lord Wolseley and his forces, the Government thought that it would be premature to propose such a vote at present.

Their lordships rose at twenty-five minutes past five o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Thursday.

There were seventy-eight questions on the paper, and question time was unusually prolonged. At the end of it, Mr. A. Balfour asked the Prime Minister to consider whether local and personal questions—the Speaker to be the judge—instead of being put verbally, should be printed with their answers on the votes. Mr. Gladstone replied that he appreciated the object of the suggestion, but he did not see that any good could come of moving in the matter at the present moment. In answer to Sir H. Tyler, Lord E. Fitzmaurice said the Russians had not occupied the Ak Robut Pass, and he was not aware that this was the only pass leading from the north available for a railway to Herat. Mr. Ashmead Bartlett had also a question on the paper relating to the reported advance of the Russians, but said he would not press it if the Government thought it undesirable; and Sir S. Northcote, in asking the Government whether there was any information which they thought they could lay before the House without prejudice, took occasion to contradict a rumour that unusual steps were taken to communicate information to the Opposition. Mr. Gladstone said, in reply, that it was right to correct this rumour, which had not reached him. He could not communicate anything which would add substantially to the information already in possession of the House, but he begged it to accept his assurance that the subject was receiving the constant and unfailing attention of the Government. Several questions were put as to the Egyptian financial agreement, which Lord E. Fitzmaurice said would probably be signed in a few days, when it would be laid before Parliament with the papers. Mr. Gladstone, in answer to Sir S. Northcote, said the question would be brought before the House in the form of a preliminary resolution on which to found a Guarantee Bill. Mr. Gladstone, in reply to Sir E. Reed, declined to give a day for the discussion of the state of the Navy, upon which Sir E. Reed said he would ask for a day after Easter. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply to Sir S. Northcote, fixed Monday for the Navy Estimates and Thursday for the Army Estimates, and added that it would be absolutely necessary to take the first votes in both next week.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and was engaged until a late hour on the Civil Service and other Supplementary Estimates. On the vote for public education in Ireland a long discussion ensued, in which the Irish members complained of a circular issued by the Government forbidding school teachers bringing their grievances before members of Parliament, and asked that information should be given to teachers as to their failure in examinations. On the vote for the diplomatic services Mr. Gorst called attention to the negotiations between Dr. Busch and Mr. Meade on colonial affairs. Illustrating his argument by numerous quotations from the correspondence relating to the annexation of New Guinea, the cession of the islands of the New Hebrides to France, and the case of Angra Pequeña, he maintained that the Government were acting most unwisely in thwarting Germany in her policy of colonisation. Mr. Ashmead Bartlett, speaking on the same subject, concurred in the view that it was most essential that cordial relations should be maintained by this country with Germany, and argued that the policy of the Government had been directed in an entirely different way. Mr. Onslow criticised the mission of Lord Northbrook to Egypt, and asked for information as to the instructions given to Sir P. Lumsden. Lord E. Fitzmaurice denied that the Government were indifferent to the friendship of Germany. They were, he said, fully sensible of the importance of cementing the good feeling between the two countries, which, he maintained, had resulted from the negotiations of the last few months. He pointed out that a plain statement had been made by Lord Derby with reference to Mr. Meade's visit to Berlin, and he disputed the contention of Mr. Gorst that the Government had incurred the ill-will of Germany either in relation to the Cameroons or any other colony. Turning to the question of Samoa, he said there was no treaty or convention between England and Germany, but there was a treaty between Germany and Samoa relating to its independence, and also one between Samoa and this country. As regards the Afghan difficulty, it was not desirable, he said, at present to give any information, but when the time came for making a statement he promised that the whole question should be laid before Parliament. Sir H. Wolff pointed out that the correspondence between Prince Bismarck and Mr. Meade was of a most unusual kind, and he pressed for more information on the subject than was contained in the Blue-book. Mr. Ashley remarked that hon. gentlemen opposite were making a mountain out of a molehill, as Mr. Meade's conversations were of an entirely informal character, and the Blue-book was published simply to correct the wrong impression which might have been derived from the German White-book. Nothing had been kept back from the colonies, and their agents had been kept well informed all throughout. Mr. Tomlinson complained that the Government had not kept its pledge to lay the Congo Treaty before the House, to which Mr. Gladstone replied that the Treaty had vanished into the region of nonentity, and therefore did not require any Parliamentary sanction. In reply to a remark of Mr. Onslow, Mr. Gladstone said that, while we should desire to live on terms of amity with all nations, he denied that the friendship of any country was necessary to enable us to maintain ourselves. Referring to the despatch of May 5, he repeated that Prince Bismarck was mistaken in supposing that it had been communicated to the British Government, and on the general question of German colonisation he said the Government would meet it in no grudging or huckstering spirit, but would wish Germany Godspeed and welcome her as a partner in the work of carrying the light of civilisation to the distant regions of the earth. Mr. A. Balfour remarked that it was a pity this spirit had not actuated the Colonial Office; and after some further conversation the vote was agreed to, as were the remaining Civil Service votes.

POLITICAL AND PERSONAL.

The result of the polling in West Gloucestershire on Tuesday for the election of a candidate to the vacancy in Parliament created by the appointment of Colonel Kingscote (Liberal) to a Commissionership of Woods and Forests, was officially declared on Wednesday as follows:—

Mr. B. St. John Ackers (Conservative)...	4,837
Sir William Marling (Liberal).....	4,426
Conservative majority	411

The poll was declared at Darsley Townhall soon after three o'clock, and the result was received with cheers and groanings from the crowd assembled outside. There were eighty-three spoilt papers. At the general election in 1880 the votes polled were as follows:—Colonel Kingscote (L), 5,316; Lord Moreton (L), 5,164; and Mr. Plunkett (C), 4,640. In 1874 the representation was divided, the result of the polling being—the Hon. R. E. S. Plunkett (C), 4,553; Colonel Kingscote (L), 4,344; and the Hon. C. P. J. Berkeley (L), 4,317. In 1868 two Liberals were returned, the votes being as follows:—Colonel Kingscote (L), 4,985; Mr. S. S. Marling (L), 4,862; Colonel Somerset (C), 4,394. Previous to the election of November, 1868, the division had since 1835 generally been represented by a Liberal and a Conservative. Mr. Benjamin St. John Ackers, of Prinknash Park, near Painswick, Gloucestershire, and Prince of Wales-terrace, Kensington, is the only surviving son of the late Mr. James Ackers, formerly M.P. for Ludlow. He was born in 1839, and was educated at Rugby and St. John's College, Oxford, and was called to the Bar at Lincoln's-inn in May, 1865, but never practised. Mr. Ackers, who is a magistrate and deputy-lieutenant for the county, unsuccessfully contested the city of Gloucester in the Conservative interest at the general election of April, 1880. He is the 125th new member returned, and his election is a gain of a seat, counting two votes on a division in the Opposition.

The Marquis of Salisbury has promised to open the new Conservative Club at Wrexham, North Wales. It is expected that the ceremony will take place during the Easter recess, and a demonstration on an extensive scale is being organised to celebrate the event.

Lord Salisbury has intimated his intention of addressing a public meeting at Portsmouth shortly. The date of his visit will depend on the course of events in Parliament.

Lord Carrington will succeed Lord Augustus Loftus as Governor of New South Wales.

It is reported on good authority, says the *Morning Post*, that Mr. Gladstone has expressed his resolution to withdraw from office immediately after the solution of the present difficulty with Russia on the Afghan boundary question.

The next house dinner of the St. Stephen's Club will take place on Tuesday, the 24th inst. Sir Richard Temple will take the chair.

It is understood that the Government have abandoned the idea of moving this Session for a Select Committee to inquire into the administration of the Endowed Schools Act by the Charity Commission. It has been thought advisable to leave the matter to be dealt with by a new Parliament. In the meanwhile any scheme of the Commissioners to which there is strong opposition will probably be held in suspense by the Education Department.

There was no Conservative in the minority of 79 which supported Mr. Bryce's proposal on Tuesday to disfranchise the Universities. But it was supported by from twenty to thirty Irish Home Rulers. Among the English members of the minority were Messrs. A. Arnold, Borlase, Hon. R. Carington, Davey, Passmore Edwards, Firth, Illingworth, John Morley, Samuel Morley, Thorold Rogers, and Hon. E. Lyulph Stanley.

Speaking on Wednesday evening at the annual festival of the Newsvendors' Benevolent Institution, Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P., touched upon the political outlook, and commented upon the contemplated visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Ireland. He regretted that it was not undertaken during his period of office as Chief Secretary, and whilst claiming that the absence of their Royal Highnesses from that country was not from disinclination, remarked that he believed the visit would do great good, and he thought it would be well if they spent a part of every year there. In proposing the health of the institution Mr. Forster bore high testimony to the value and influence of the English Press as a means of educating and enlightening the public.

The following letter has been received in Bradford from Mr. Forster, in reply to the vote of censure passed on him by the Bradford Liberal Four Hundred :—"Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter enclosing a resolution passed at a meeting of the Bradford Liberal Four Hundred, informing me of their disapproval of my vote last Friday on Sir Stafford Northcote's motion. I have already explained, not only in my speech last Friday, but also in my speeches in Parliament last year, and in my letter to the Liberal Four Hundred last May, the view which I take of the Egyptian policy of the Government, and the reasons which have compelled me most reluctantly to differ from it; and therefore I trust that I shall not be supposed to be wanting in courtesy and respect to the meeting of which you were chairman if I now simply express my sincere regret that my action has not met with its approval." Mr. Gladstone's secretary, acknowledging on behalf of the Prime Minister the receipt of a copy of the resolution passed by the Bradford Liberal Four Hundred in reference to Mr. Forster's action, writes :—"I am directed to assure you of the satisfaction with which Mr. Gladstone learns the continued disposition of the Liberals of Bradford to place confidence in the intentions and actions of Her Majesty's Government."

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, in addressing a meeting at Bristol on Saturday in support of Mr. Ackers, the Conservative candidate for West Gloucestershire, severely criticised the policy of Ministers in relation to General Gordon and the Soudan. The incapacity of action and decision which characterised the Government, if pursued much farther, would, he said, land the country in even greater evils than the loss of Gordon. He then referred to Central Asia, and said the Russians were making aggressions on the borders of Afghanistan, which might any day lead us into war. If the present Government in their blind hurry to reverse the policy of Lord Beaconsfield had not deluded the Russian Government into believing that they were incapable of everything but retreat and inaction, the Russian Government would never have been encouraged to take steps from which it would be now difficult to recede, and which, if persisted in, must lead to war. With regard to the colonies there was a predominant feeling throughout them in favour of maintaining a close connection between them and this country; but that feeling must have something to nourish it, and it would not and could not last unless the Government of England made it clear to them that their interests would be cared for and safe-guarded as much as if they were our own.

Mr. Goschen was entertained by the Eighty Club on Tuesday evening, and in his speech dealt with the progress of opinion and legislation since 1880. He considered that the principal work since the reforms of 1867 had been the abolition or restriction of privileges previously in operation, and that the Parliament elected in 1880 was the first which thoroughly represented the new electorate. The new attitude which he saw now in Parliament, and among the people generally, was a readiness to consider almost any proposal. The right hon. gentleman indicated some of the dangers lurking in the present popular beliefs.

A crowded public meeting was held on Tuesday night in the public hall at Sutton in connection with the local Working Men's Constitutional Association, to whom Mr. David Plunket, M.P., had promised to deliver an address. The right hon. gentleman was, however, prevented at the last moment by business in the House of Commons from attending. The chair was taken by Mr. H. D. Phillips, and the audience included a large number of working men, who frequently manifested their entire sympathy with the speakers in their exposure of the vacillating and aimless policy of the present Government. Mr. Hemmings addressed the meeting at some length on public questions, and at the close of his address he was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, and a similar compliment to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

Speaking at the Portsmouth Working Men's Conservative Club on Tuesday night, Lord Henry Lennox said they knew, and everybody knew, that there was no part of the civilised globe upon which an Englishman could look without shame and humility. It was a serious thing that the day had arrived for England when in no part of the globe was there a silver lining to the cloud. They certainly did not find it in the reversing of Lord Beaconfield's policy in Afghanistan or of Lord Carnarvon's policy in South Africa, nor in the attempt to give to Egypt an amount of prosperity and well-being such as it had before the unlucky day when Mr. Gladstone took it in hand. The present Government had no cohesion, and on alternate occasions the head wagged the tail or the tail wagged the head, and the greatest honour such men could do themselves would be to acknowledge their want of foresight and error of judgment in the policy to which they had committed the country. But the worst of all excuses set up by Mr. Gladstone and his Government was for their failure to rescue the lamented General Gordon. Mr. Gladstone told them that nobody could have rescued him, for he was in the midst of treachery all the time; but months elapsed before Mr. Gladstone tried to rescue him, and they had it on the authority of Lord Wolseley that if the troops had been two days sooner they would have rescued him. Let them keep pertinaciously before them the errors and misjudgments of the present Government, and let them tell the people wherever they went that, owing to their vacillation, want of cohesion, and internal differences, invaluable lives had been sacrificed, and the honour of England trailed in the dirt.

The Council of India consists of fifteen members, all of whom used to hold office for life, but are now by law appointed for ten years, the Secretary of State having, however, the power of reappointment, and also of nominating three of the body to be life members, in addition to the older ones still remaining who hold their places permanently. The first case of a ten-year member completing his term occurred last year, and Lord Kimberley declined to extend his term, nominating in his place an Indian merchant of much more recent experience. During the present year two more councillors will complete their term of ten years, and some curiosity is felt as to their possible reappointment. What is wanted (says the *Pall Mall*) is not prolonged experience of the way of doing business at the India Office, but recent experience of India, which is a very different thing, and is just the commodity in which the India Council is most deficient. The ages of the councillors vary from eighty years to sixty-five, save one or two comparative boys of fifty-five; and the Indian experience of the majority dates from forty to twenty years ago.

The receipts on account of revenue from the 1st of April, 1884, when there was a balance of £5,632,569, to the 7th of March, 1885, were £80,684,568, against £81,936,199 in the corresponding period of the preceding financial year, which began with a balance of £6,972,730. The net expenditure was £77,988,534, against £77,395,529 to the same date in the previous year. The Treasury balances on the 7th of March amounted to £6,577,120, and at the same date in 1884 to £10,871,855.

On the subject of the Church and the coming voters, The Hon. and Rev. L. Neville writes to the *St. James's Gazette* as follows from Carlisle :—"The extreme gravity of the questions involved under this heading cannot be disputed in the face of two facts: (1) that the ranks from which the new voters will be drawn have a very imperfect knowledge of the history, constitution, and work of the Church of England; (2) that these ranks are being sedulously nursed by Liberationist treatment to develop Disestablishment representation in the next Parliament. What are Churchmen to do in this crisis? Surely to set to work at once in every constituency in the kingdom, and so counteract the false teaching by the true. Permit me to point out what I conceive to be the most efficacious mode of procedure. These classes cannot buy books which deal at large with Church questions; able lectures do good, but they are costly, and, therefore, rare luxuries; articles in periodicals are spasmodic and lack continuity; there is only one simple and inexpensive way of reaching the vast army, who may ere long have to decide, *inter alia*, the question whether the Church is to remain as the National Established Church of the country; and that is by the wholesale circulation of leaflets dealing with one point at a time, in plain and direct language explaining the subject upon which the Church is most misrepresented and most misunderstood. Your readers may like to know that a series of such leaflets has been prepared by the well-known author of *The Englishman's Brief for his National Church*, a work too well known to need commendation from me. The fact, however, that I have no personal acquaintance with him renders it easier for me to commend these leaflets, which can be obtained at an almost nominal cost by application to Mr. William Sitton, 10, Southampton-street, Strand."

THE WISDOM OF MIDLOTHIAN.

In the speech with which he began his "pilgrimage of passion" in November, 1879, Mr. Gladstone harped upon the duty of the Government to dissolve Parliament. Why did Lord Beaconsfield refuse to take this obviously proper course? The Tories claimed to possess the confidence of the people, which gave them a vast majority, and yet they would not submit their administration to the judgment of the people. Why not? "Because," thundered Mr. Gladstone, "they know that the country is against them." He then went on gleefully, "They won't have a very pleasant operation to perform when they produce their next Budget." How history repeats itself, to be sure! Precisely the same statements might be made to-day respecting the Government of the far-sighted statesman who flung these bitter taunts at Lord Beaconsfield.

As all the world knows, some Indian troops have just landed at Souakim, and more are to follow. It is opportune, therefore (remarks the *Globe*), to remind Mr. Gladstone of the views he expressed in that connection when he was out of office. Speaking of the wicked Tories, he told the Edinburgh Radicals that "they went on bringing Indian troops into Europe against the law of the country." Notice the nice discrimination. It is perfectly permissible for a Liberal Government to disembark sepoys on the Red Sea littoral, but it was unlawful, unrighteous, almost treasonable, for a Conservative Cabinet to land these swarthy soldiers on a Mediterranean island.

Further on, this highly moral orator descanted on the duty of all Governments in the domain of foreign affairs. They should "proceed upon the principle that recognises the sisterhood and equality of nations, and the absolute equality of public right among them." Quite so: the Soudanese Arabs can bear witness how faithfully Mr. Gladstone has observed this sacred principle in their instance. Some 20,000 of them must have been slain from first to last, and no doubt the widows and children of the dead clearly perceive Mr. Gladstone's recognition of their right to live. But the duty of Governments does not stop here. Above all things, they are bound "to produce and to maintain a sympathy so calm and deliberate in the public opinion of the country that none shall be able to disturb it." Splendidly have Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues succeeded in this endeavour! Since they came into office the profoundest, the calmest, and the most deliberate sympathy has characterised the public opinion of this country. No one has attempted to disturb it; neither Mr. Parnell, Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. Bradlaugh, or any other volcanic politician. All the world has looked on with wonder and envy at the magnificent spectacle of a great nation united to a man in working out the national welfare. Although opposed to Mr. Gladstone, we are bound to congratulate him on his magnificent success in performing the miracle which he twitted Lord Beaconsfield with failing to accomplish. On that occasion he appealed "from Philip drunk to Philip sober," and so do we now, with, perhaps, better reason.

The passionate pilgrim was very strong in his denunciations of Lord Beaconsfield's annexations. In six years that aggressive Minister had laid hands on the Transvaal, had become responsible for Zululand, and had acquired Cyprus. Mr. Gladstone preferred to exclude the Fiji Islands from his remarks, "because I don't consider the Government censurable for that act, whether wise or not." The list is terribly heavy as it stands, and, of course, altogether outweighs what the present Government have done in the great game of grab. Their bitterest critics cannot say worse of them than that they have incorporated with the British Empire the greater part of New Guinea, the northern portion of Borneo, Bechuanaland, Basutoland, the whole coast of Zululand, Beloochistan, and some odd clusters of islands in the Pacific. They have certainly made themselves responsible for Egypt and the Soudan, but, as everyone knows, that is a mere scrap of territory compared with what King Cetewayo ruled over. It will be seen at a glance that the comparison is all in favour of Liberal rule, but it seems fair to say that it has only operated for five years, instead of six, the period of Conservative sinfulness.

While on that subject, Mr. Gladstone showed up in proper style Sir Bartle Frere's monstrous doings. That wicked man "had announced in South Africa that it will be necessary to extend our dominions until we reach the Portuguese frontier on the north." Inconceivable turpitude! Atrocious villainy! How much more virtuous has the Liberal plan been! When circumstances seemed to render it desirable to extend our South African territory on the West Coast to the Portuguese frontier, Prince Bismarck kindly saved Mr. Gladstone from that temptation by seizing the littoral for Germany. But on the eastern side England was first in the game of grab, and our territory there now extends to the Portuguese frontier. Surely Sir Bartle Frere was a very short-sighted man, and Mr. Gladstone a very long-sighted one.

There is only one other passage in this initial oration which needs to be touched up to show the perfect consistency and wonderful provision of the great and good man who rules over us so much to our benefit. It had been said in defence of the Beaconsfield Government that, whether their actions were good or ill, they were, at all events, always supported by large majorities in the House of Commons. That was true, but on the other side "neither in the American War, nor in the great Revolutionary War, never at any period known to me, has objection been taken so persistently by such large fractions of the House of Commons—not less than two-fifths sometimes—to the foreign policy of the Governments." A glance through the Parliamentary record since the beginning of last year shows at once how much less assailable Mr. Gladstone's foreign policy has been. There have been three votes of censure during that time. On the first occasion objection was taken by more than 45 per cent. of the House; on the second by more than 47 per cent.; and on the third by very nearly 49 per cent. Mr. Gladstone added a crushing comment to his triumphant demonstration of the unpopularity of Lord Beaconsfield's foreign policy in the House of Commons. "The fact is, in matters of foreign policy it does require very great errors and very great misdeeds on the part of the Government to drive the large majority of Parliament in opposition to them. It is important to maintain national unanimity in the face of the world." Perfectly true; but, of course, these considerations had no sort of connection with the three narrow escapes of the present Government from the formal censure of the House of Commons. They scraped through solely because they had not committed "very great errors and very great misdeeds," and by no means through any wish in the House to present, if possible, an appearance of "national unanimity in the face of the world."

LORD H. LENNOX AND THE NAVY.

A valuable contribution to the controversy on the critical state of the Navy has come from Lord Henry Gordon Lennox. He expresses his gratification that Parliament and the public have at length been aroused, and his present purpose is to suggest means by which the truth may be brought home to the Admiralty, which alone appears to be unconvinced. He is afraid that the reluctant promises wrung from it in Parliament will only prove another attempt to shelve the whole question, "they having been submitted with that plausibility and want of candour which has characterised all through every action of the present Board of Admiralty." Lord Henry again declares his belief that "my Lords" have been, and are still being, misled by their permanent officials; and he is led to "the irresistible conclusion that the department responsible for the designing and construction of our fleet lacks that cohesion, knowledge, and efficiency which must be commensurate with the grave responsibilities involved." He accuses the shipbuilding department of incapacity, want of forethought and skill, and great extravagance. They have gone on altering and realtering their designs, while other nations have been building up more powerful fleets. "As a matter of fact," he says, "we have scarcely a ship which, according to the highest professional authority, can take its proper place among the fighting ships of the world as an integral part of the British Navy. One nation alone—Italy—has built several monster ironclads, not the work of a moment, but the result of years of steady and progressive development. We have constructed one ship of similar but weaker character, which, built years ago, is even at this date armed with guns of not a quarter of the power of those which are to be found in seven Italian ships; and, so far are we compromised by the Admiralty policy, that when the heavier foreign ironclads are ready for sea, our one *Inflexible* has been paid off, and may, whilst repairing, be placed *hors de combat* for months to come." Special condemnation is made of the latest ironclads undefended by vertical armour at their ends, and Lord Henry cordially approves of Sir Edward Reed's protest. Lord Henry shows, too, that the French ships with complete armour have a thicker central belt than our own semi-armoured vessels. He instances the cases of the *Ajax* and *Agamemnon* in proof of the charge of incapacity of the Construction Department, which, he argues, should be thoroughly remodelled. "This can only be effected," he says, "by placing at the disposal of the Board the services of our ablest naval and dockyard scientific officers, and insisting on such an interchange of duties between the members of the Corps of Naval Constructors at the Admiralty and those doing duty in the dockyards as will prevent officers of this service being at the Admiralty, as now, for indefinite periods. This arrangement would ensure that the direction of our shipbuilding affairs will not be left exclusively, as at present, in the hands of a body of officials who have not been outside the Admiralty for years, who have little or no practical knowledge of dockyard duties, and are in nowise seasoned by that useful experience which alone is to be obtained in our fleets themselves, or in the superintendence of the construction and repairing of ships in our naval dockyards." In conclusion, Lord Henry takes the opportunity of once more warning the Admiralty of the serious consequences which must ensue if the present policy is allowed to be pursued, and impresses upon it the advisability of remodelling the shipbuilding department of the Navy as the first step necessary for the restoration of public confidence in its management of our naval affairs.

THE NEW SCHEME FOR CHRIST'S HOSPITAL.

The Charity Commissioners have issued the draft of their new scheme for the administration of the endowments of Christ's Hospital, and for the management of the new schools to be provided. The endowments are to be administered as one foundation by two governing bodies, the Governors and the Council of Almoners. The Governors will consist of four classes: *ex-officio* Governors, namely, the President (the Duke of Cambridge), and the Lord Mayor and twenty-five Senior Aldermen of the City of London; twelve members of the Common Council, elected by that body; donation Governors and Governors by special vote, and Governors by right of almonership. The Council of Almoners is to consist of not more than forty persons, nominated by the Corporation, by the Governors, the School Board, the Universities, and learned societies in specified proportions. This Council is to appoint annually a Committee of seven women to assist in the management of the girls' school, and three Standing Committees of its own body for the details of the management. The next series of clauses relate to the treasurer, the management of the property, and the method of business of the Council, including regulations relating to the annual report in April, the audit, the use of the seal, the management and letting of the estates, &c. There are also provisions regarding the period of transition to the new scheme, and saving the interests and pensions of any officers or scholars who may be affected thereby. The seventh section prescribes that the Hospital Schools shall be a boarding school for 700 boys, a boarding school for 500 girls, and a preparatory school for 120 to be maintained within a convenient distance from the City of London; a day school for 600 boys, to be called the Science School, in the City of London; and a girls' day school for 400, in the county of Middlesex, within three miles from the Royal Exchange. The Council of Almoners are to provide, as "soon as conveniently may be after the date of this scheme," "convenient sites, buildings suitable," for the numbers just named. The existing buildings in Newgate-street may be used for the boys' school under the new scheme until other suitable buildings are provided, "but no longer." Masters are not to be required to be in holy orders; but each head master must be the graduate of a University in the United Kingdom; he may not, however, hold any benefice having the cure of souls. A stringent conscience clause is introduced, subject to which, however, "religious instruction in accordance with the principles of the Christian faith" is to be given in each school; "and in each boarding school the religious instruction to be so given shall further include religious instruction in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England." The children admitted to the Hospital schools are to be called Foundationers, and the first qualification for admission is to be that the "parents or next friends shall be in need of assistance towards the education and maintenance of such child." One hundred and seven places in the boys' school, and seventy places in the girls' school are to be competed for by children who have been scholars in the Board Schools. The children admitted are to be between ten and eleven years of age, and they may remain in the school to the age of seventeen; but special permission may be obtained to remain until the age of nineteen. The Exhibitions Fund is to be applied to the maintenance of boys at the Universities, the apprenticeship of boys and girls, the making of grants or outfits to give the scholars a start in life, and the provision of medals and prizes. The fees in the Science (Day) School are to range between £5 and £10 per annum, the age of the boys to be between eleven and seventeen. The provisions for the Girls' Day School are the same as those of the Science School. Three hundred free places in the Science School and 200 in the Girls' Day School are to be allotted to scholars from the Board Schools. Yearly sums of £1,000 and £500 respectively are to be applied in maintaining exhibitions of a yearly value of £40, the larger sum to scholars in the Science School and the other for girls. The jurisdiction of the Bishops is abolished and the rights of the Queen, as visitor, are transferred to the Charity Commissioners. The scheme is to date from the day on which the Queen in Council declares her approbation of it.

At a recent meeting of the Society of Antiquarians the Governors of St. John's House, Sherborne, Dorset, exhibited a very interesting triptych, which formerly served as an altarpiece in the chapel of the hospital. The tripytch when open measured about six feet in width by three feet three inches in height. In the centre piece was the miracle of the raising of Lazarus. In the dexter panel were two miracles, viz., the healing of the man with the deaf and dumb spirit (St. Mark ix.), and the healing of the man who was blind from his birth (St. John v.). On the sinister panel were the raising to life of the son of the widow of Nain and that of the daughter of Jairus. On the backs of these wings were the figures, in *grisaille*, of St. Paul, St. James, St. Peter, and St. Thomas. The composition of this picture was not without very considerable merit, but the execution was decidedly coarse. This may have been due to its having been retouched and repainted by successive restorers.

Painted windows as memorials of departed worth have more than ordinary interest in the eyes of all. Mr. W. G. Taylor (late O'Connor) has at all times pleasure of showing his various works for church and hall in progress, the introduction of likenesses in windows being a special study. Designs and estimates free. Medal awarded to works in Paris Exhibition.—The "Art" Works, 4, Berners-street, London.

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PUBLIC DEBT of NEW ZEALAND.—CONVERSION of £5,772,500 NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT FIVE PER CENT. CONSOLS.—The Governor and Company of the Bank of England Give Notice that, on behalf of the agents appointed by the Governor of New Zealand in Council, under the New Zealand Consolidated Stock Act, 1877, the Amendment Act, 1881, and the Consolidated Stock Act, 1884 (Sir Francis Dillon Bell, K.C.M.G., and Sir Penrose Goodchild Julyan, K.C.M.G., C.B.), they are authorised to invite holders of the debentures of the above loan to bring in their debentures for conversion on the following terms, viz:

For every one hundred pounds of such debentures a new debenture will be issued for the same amount, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for seven years, from April 15, 1885, to April 15, 1892, when it will be converted into £107 New Zealand Four per Cent. Consolidated Stock inscribed at the Bank of England, which will rank pari passu with the Four per Cent. Consolidated Stock already created and issued, and redeemable at par on the 1st November, 1929.

Applications for conversion will be received up to April 30 next inclusive.

The interest upon the new debentures will be payable by coupons in the same manner as upon the Consol debentures—viz., January 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15, at the Bank of England, the first coupon being for the dividend due July 15 next.

Consol debentures, from which the coupon due April 15 next must be detached, may be deposited at the Chief Cashier's Office, Bank of England, for exchange on or after Wednesday, the 11th inst. They must bear all coupons subsequent to that due April 15 next, and must be left three clear days for examination. Receipts will be given for the debentures deposited, and the new debentures will be issued in exchange as soon after as possible.

The usual annual drawing for redemption of the Consols will take place on Tuesday, 31st March next; debentures deposited before that date will not be affected by the drawing. Holders of Consol Debentures drawn for redemption, in respect of which no application for conversion has been made, will be allowed to receive, in exchange for each drawn debenture, a new debenture as above, upon payment of the sum of £4 per cent., provided application be made before the 15th April next.

By the Act 40 and 41 Vict., ch. 59, the revenues of the colony of New Zealand alone will be liable in respect of the stock and the dividends thereon, and the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom, and the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, will not be directly or indirectly liable or responsible for the payment of the stock or of the dividends thereon, or for any matter relating thereto.

Bank of England, 6th March, 1885.

THE CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY, enrolled under 6 and 7 Will. IV., cap. 32, as The Conservative Benefit Building Society.—NOTICE is HEREBY GIVEN that the ONE HUNDRED and THIRTIETH QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING of the MEMBERS will be held at the OFFICES, No. 33, NORFOLK STREET, Strand, London, W.C., on TUESDAY, the 31st day of March, 1885, at 2 o'clock, precisely—Viscount RANELAGH, K.C.B., in the Chair—to receive the Report of the Executive Committee, and for general purposes.

By Order of the Board.
March 13, 1885. CHARLES BELTON, Secretary.

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LONDON, March 14.

HISTORY OF THE WEEK.

The air has been heavy throughout the week with rumours of war, and it hardly seems possible that the black thunder-cloud which has gathered on the Afghan frontier should disperse without bursting. We may at any moment receive news that a chance collision between the advanced posts of the CZAR and the AMEER has led to the commencement of a war between England and Russia. Into such a war we should go with no light heart, and the most unthinking must realise its dangers and its difficulties. We cannot agree with the optimist views of the *Standard*, or with the estimate of the relative strength of the two nations, having regard to the battle-ground selected, which our contemporary has formed, overrating, we fear, the advantages which England possesses, and underrating the advantages which Russia possesses, in the coming struggle. But, though with no light heart, we would go with steadfast determination into the struggle for supremacy in Asia which has been so long regarded by "enlightened politicians" as a mere phantasm of the heated imagination of alarmists that it comes now upon some of us as a matter of surprise, not as a matter foreseen by all politicians not of the ostrich type. Lord BEACONSFIELD was anxious to prepare for and guard against this danger, and it was this anxiety which was made the chief count in the Midlothian indictment against him. That irony of fate which has led to Mr. GLADSTONE having to reverse every portion of his own Midlothian policy in favour of that which he so vehemently denounced, reaches its climax when we find

the most prominent of Russophils, the most incredulous scoffer at any prospect of danger to India from Russian aggression, compelled to assume a determined tone to check that aggression. It is to be hoped that that tone has not been assumed too late, and that Russia will be led to believe in its sincerity. If this be so, the struggle may yet be averted for a time, as we can hardly believe that Russian statesmen will persist in carrying out their ambitious schemes if they can once realise that to do so will involve them in war. But the danger is that they may decline to realise that Mr. GLADSTONE's Cabinet for once in a way really means what it says, and that it speaks the voice of a united nation when it bars the way to Herat. We are too apt to credit foreigners with as short memories as we ourselves have, and because to us Midlothian speeches are "an old and an almost forgotten story," as we are confidently informed by Mr. GLADSTONE's admirers when we venture to refer to them, we are inclined to think that our foreign friends, if we have any, and our foreign foes, of whom we have so many, must place them in the same category. But both friends and foes may be excused if they regard them not as mere frantic denunciations of Lord BEACONSFIELD thundered forth by an unscrupulous rival, but as the deliberate utterances of a responsible English statesman. They cannot be expected to know Mr. GLADSTONE as well as we do.

We are glad to learn that it is probable that an attempt will be made by the Italian expeditionary force at Massowah to relieve the gallant garrison at Kassala, whose abandonment to the fate of their brethren at Sinkat was formally announced by Mr. GLADSTONE and Lord E. FITZMAURICE in the House of Commons on Tuesday. The Italian Government is not quite so cynical—is not that the word which Mr. GLADSTONE was so fond of applying to Lord BEACONSFIELD?—as the English Government, and is not prepared to allow Kassala to fall without an effort. It is not altogether pleasant that so marked a contrast should be presented to the world, and a successful rescue will increase Italy's prestige at the expense of our own; yet in the interests of humanity we must prefer that Italian intervention on the Red Sea littoral should be justified rather than that the Kassala garrison should be massacred. The alternative suggestion thrown out by Lord E. FITZMAURICE that "the SULTAN had been requested to "resume the direct administration of the Red "Sea littoral" is perhaps the most unconsciously amusing utterance of that *naïve* politician, and exhibits what the Government are pleased to call their policy even in a more ludicrous light than any of his previous confessions.

Another piece of good news from Egypt is that Lord WOLSELEY contradicts the report to which we alluded last week, that his eyesight had been seriously affected by the climate of the Soudan. The general order which he has issued to the troops expressing the interest which the QUEEN has felt in their doings, and her admiration for their bravery, goes on to exhort them to bear the summer heat and the forced inaction for the next few months with the same uncomplaining devotion to duty as they have shown during the more active operations in which they have been engaged. He looks forward to "leading them to Khartoum before the year is over." As far as he is concerned there is no sign of that cold fit succeeding the hot fit which leads some of us to believe that the operation of "smashing the MAHDI" will be allowed gradually to drop out of notice. The concentration of his troops in their summer quarters is being carried on without any interruption by the enemy, and General BRACKENBURY's forces have reached Korti. Though we do not often agree with Mr. LABOUCHERE, we must echo his protest against the attempted destruction of the desert wells by our men when retreating from Abu Klea. Such an act is not worthy of civilised warfare, and our enemies themselves would not have been guilty of it. We believe, however, and are glad to believe, that there are practical difficulties in effectively carrying out so barbarous a design, and that it is almost impossible really to fill up wells in the desert, but that the springs will find themselves a way to the surface, despite our barbarous precautions. OSMAN DIGNA has not yet made the attack in force on Souakim which was expected, and we have now troops enough there to set any attempt at a regular onslaught at defiance. But the Arabs are reported to be in high spirits, and anxious to fight in the event of an advance being made from Souakim, and in the meantime they are harassing our troops by constant night attacks on our outposts, one of which on Thursday was of rather a serious character. They have also picked off several of our sentries by long shots.

Amid the pressure of graver interests we have almost forgotten the much-talked-of "Financial Settlement of Egypt." The French propositions, of which the effect is to saddle us with all the responsibilities and to take from us all the advantages to be derived from our interference in the affairs of that country, have been accepted by our Government, and we are, despite all Mr. GLADSTONE's protestations, to be involved in a Multiple Control which aggravates and intensifies all the evils of the Dual Control from which we have done so much and spent so much to emancipate ourselves. The new arrangement possesses no single advantage, except in so far that it is in harmony with the Ministerial policy of humiliating the country and getting as little advantage as possible for our large expenditure of money and life. It is difficult to conceive how even Mr. GLADSTONE can have consented to barter away our interests in Egypt for so miserable a mess of pottage as is here tendered to us. Whether Prince BISMARCK's proposals were for us to take Egypt or to occupy Egypt as lessees of the Porte, either one or the other would be preferable to the acceptance of the present proposals, under which we are only to get the chestnuts out of the fire for the benefit of the rest of Europe.

Lord GRANVILLE's appearance in the white sheet of penitence yesterday week was not altogether a gratifying sight to Englishmen proud of the traditions of the past and not yet accustomed to the procedure of the present. But we may console ourselves with the reflection that it was Lord GRANVILLE personally, and not the English Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who was supposed thus to do penance for indiscreet utterances which had affected the delicate susceptibilities of Prince BISMARCK. Unfortunately, however, it is not so easy for the world at large to distinguish between the utterances of Lord GRANVILLE as a private person and the utterances of Lord GRANVILLE as a British Minister, and a very general feeling is entertained abroad that it is England herself, and not merely her Foreign Secretary, who has thus eaten humble pie. We should have been glad if a firmer tone had been adopted in this reply by side wind to the CHANCELLOR's storm, as might have been done without diminishing aught of its conciliatory spirit. It is at the same time obvious that it is very inconvenient that a series of speeches and counter-speeches delivered by members of different Governments in the public assemblies of their different countries should be substituted for the more ordinary and conventional methods of diplomatic communication. As to the main subject of controversy between the PRINCE and the EARL, at least that which the EARL chose to consider as the main subject of controversy, it seems to be a mere question of words. Probably the expression "to take Egypt" may not have been a happy one; but the CHANCELLOR's advice, though more diplomatically expressed, comes to much the same thing in the end.

The news of the alleged insult to England by the hauling down of her flag at the Cameroons by the Germans, received while Lord GRANVILLE's dulcet tones yet lingered in our ears, naturally caused no little sensation. Though the British lion has gone of late through a careful course of training in the non-natural accomplishment of putting his tail between his legs, still that animal is hardly yet a sufficiently apt pupil of the Grand Old Lion-tamer to go through the process with equanimity under all provocations. There are limits to his endurance of insult, strange as it may seem to those who have learnt their lessons of the natural history of that noble animal from Midlothian speeches and South African textbooks, and these limits were overpassed by German annexation of a British Colony. Even Mr. GLADSTONE and Lord GRANVILLE professed themselves shocked at so high-handed a proceeding, and declined to believe in the correctness of the rumour. It would have been specially hard on the latter, from an English point of view, just after he had been doing the agreeable to Prince BISMARCK, to have his nose pulled—metaphorically speaking—by the Germans, though perhaps the Germans may have been led to believe that he rather liked it than otherwise. He has certainly accompanied his profuse verbal apologies with no less humiliating acts, and Count HERBERT BISMARCK has returned to Berlin carrying with him an amount not only of polite speeches, but of substantial concessions, to gladden the paternal heart of the CHANCELLOR, who will regard him as a chip of the old block. The insult to England, having done its work, will probably be disowned, and we do not think that Prince BISMARCK will deem it either necessary or worth his while to vindicate the irregular action of his subordinates. It will be quite sufficient for him to have extracted from the fears of the English FOREIGN MINISTER all that he could have hoped to gain by the high-handed act of aggression of which his subordinates have been guilty. The bungling and delay which have lost us the Cameroons are but the normal outcome of Radical policy, and we only wonder at the simplicity of those who feel any surprise at the great discrepancy between Lord GRANVILLE's language a few weeks since and his present wholesale abandonment of all that he then claimed. Such a "settlement" *ubi tu pulsas ego vapulo tantum* may delight the *Daily News*, but will hardly be acceptable to less advanced politicians.

War, if it is to come, will as usual find us unprepared. Both our Army and our Navy have by Ministerial incompetence and Radical parsimony been brought to the lowest depths, and we find ourselves on the verge of a struggle against all the military power of the Russian CZAR, possibly against all the military power of the German KAISER, with an Army of boys and a Navy of ships of a dangerous and disgraceful type. To both of these we have again and again called attention, so that we ourselves are, at all events, free from any charge of being wise after the event. In the presence of immediate danger, when by Mr. GLADSTONE's invaluable assistance we have lost all our allies abroad and have a flood of evil passions let loose at home, the state of our Army and our Navy becomes at least as important as the prospects of a Redistribution Bill or the overthrow of the municipal government of London. We have sufficient confidence in the vigour of England, and in the patriotism of Englishmen, to believe that though we enter into the strife under the most unfavourable auspices, we shall in the end emerge successfully from it. But it is alarming to contemplate the sacrifices, both of money and of much that is more valuable than money, to which we shall have to submit before that end is reached. JOHN BULL is very long-suffering and has a very short memory, both of which are an advantage to the GLADSTONE Administration. A nation less longsuffering and gifted with a better memory would ere this have driven from office a Ministry which has done so much harm to the country, which has neglected our means of defence, and has united all Europe against us. It might, at least, have been hoped that our Navy would have been properly kept up, and that the policy of cheeseparing would not have extended to that which ought to be our chief safeguard. But without adopting all Sir EDWARD REED's views, and with a heartfelt hope that there may be much of exaggeration in those views, it is impossible to read his letters to the *Times*, supplemented and supported as they are by the ripe experience of Sir SPENCER ROBINSON and of Admiral SYMONDS, and the yet more alarming revelations of an anonymous though obviously well-informed correspondent of the *Pall Mall Gazette* in yesterday's issue, without a feeling of righteous indignation against the Administration which has brought our naval affairs to such a pass, and a feeling of indignation no less righteous against the lethargy and supineness of the country which sits down contented under such an Administration.

There are not wanting signs of an awakening from that lethargy. One of such signs is to be found in the result of the West Gloucestershire election, which came with an unpleasant surprise upon the thick-and-thin supporters of the present Ministry. It cannot be without significance at the present time that the Liberals, putting forward a candidate of considerable local influence, who has not hesitated to appeal to the worst passions of the lowest class of electors, should have been defeated at the poll by so large a majority, far exceeding anything that the Conservatives have yet polled in that division. The Liberals confidently expected a majority, though a much diminished one from that which they had obtained in previous elections. All the more discomfiting to them was the announcement of the result of the contest for the seat vacated by Colonel KINGSCOTE. The bitterness of their defeat was intensified by the unfortunate mistake which at first turned the defeat into a victory, and when it was announced in the House of Commons that the Liberal candidate had been returned by a majority of over 400, great were the rejoicings on the Ministerial benches. Sir WILLIAM HARCOURT forgot the Soudan scuttle and the dynamiters' threats in the proud delight of proclaiming the exhilarating sentiment that "the country yet had a backbone." All the more bitter was his disappointment when he found that it had a backbone indeed, but that the backbone was Conservative, not Liberal. The party ties which had bound together the divergent fragments of the Liberals in the House of Commons were not strong enough to bind together the Liberals of the great county constituency. They have realised, and have shown most emphatically that they have realised the political situation, and it is the verdict of the House of Lords rather than the verdict of the House of Commons on the Ministerial policy, that has been approved in the polling-booths of West Gloucestershire.

It is not often that the arguments in favour of any measure of so-called reform are so frankly put forward as was done by Mr. REDMOND in his speech in support of Professor BRYCE's motion to disfranchise the Universities. "Neither property nor learning," says that enthusiastic patriot, "ought to have any weight." This is stating the case in a nutshell, and probably represents the view entertained by many supporters of the measure who have not the moral courage to express it so openly. We are glad, however, to find that such a view does not meet with general acceptance, and, despite the less than half-hearted speeches of Sir CHARLES DILKE and Mr. GLADSTONE in support of the compromise to which they had agreed, a majority of 260 to 79 rejected the PROFESSOR's proposal. It cannot be matter of surprise that the PREMIER should have taken the opportunity to keep the word of promise to the ear while reserving to himself the right to break it on the very earliest opportunity. His bitter resentment against Oxford for having turned him out has already been to the University "the direful spring of woes un-"numbered," and it must have cost him something to consent, as part of the terms of compromise, to allow so unappreciative a constituency yet to remain in existence. The question of the University franchise was complicated by the determination of the Parnellites to treat it as an Irish question mainly concerned with Dublin; and moreover Oxford and Cambridge, with all their historic antecedents, were placed at a disadvantage by being mixed up with such comparatively mushroom constituencies as London and Edinburgh. It is matter of regret that the onslaught should have been led by one distinguished son of Oxford, and should have been supported by another distinguished son, Mr. HORACE DAVEY. *Et tu Brute* is an obvious quotation, but not on that account the less appropriate when we find those who owe so much to the University in the forefront of her assailants. That Professor ROGERS should have followed suit is not matter either of surprise or regret, as we are accustomed to exhibitions of bad taste on his part. But there are other University Liberals of whom we might have hoped better things. Surely it is a great show up of the pretensions of the Liberal party to represent culture that they should so utterly despair of ever winning a University seat, and should thus admit that if property and learning are to be represented they are sure to select their representatives from the ranks of the Conservatives.

Oxford has been the scene of a fierce battle between what we must roughly call the vivisectionists and the anti-vivisectionists. The meeting of Convocation on Tuesday was a very stormy one, and the VICE-CHANCELLOR, who presided over it, must have been reminded of a no less exciting contest many years ago in which his own claims came under discussion. At the meeting the rival parties seem to have behaved as if they were in the House of Commons, and the undergraduates have never stood so much in need of being called to order as did the graduates in that memorable fray. The speakers in opposition to the vote did more justice to their case than those who supported it, and Dr. LIDDON was specially happy in the speech with which he led the onslaught of the opponents. But we must own for ourselves that the preponderance of argument is in favour of those who supported the grant. We have no enthusiasm for natural science, and are old-fashioned enough to cast a longing eye back upon the times when "a First" meant a classical first and nothing else, and even a mathematical first was something not to be spoken of in the same breath. Now, alas! *nous avons changé tout cela*; and, to use a harmless exaggeration, there are almost as many different kinds of firsts as there are letters of the alphabet. It must not, therefore, be supposed that it is any zeal for physiological study which influences our judgment, still less that it is any callousness towards the sufferings of the victims of vivisection. But we

must own that, on a careful consideration of the matter and a careful perusal of the circulars issued on both sides, we are prepared —though speaking with some hesitation when we find such men as Dr. Liddon, the Bishop of Oxford, and the Dean of Chichester expressing themselves so strongly — to endorse the verdict of the majority. The beneficial results to mankind which have resulted from the experiments of the vivisectionists cannot be questioned, and the safeguards with which the prosecution of those experiments has been hedged round by the law are sufficient to satisfy all but those who would not allow vivisection at all. This being so, we cannot agree that it was well that after the University had spent so much on the erection of a home for physiological research, that members of Convocation should have been asked to refuse the necessary funds to set it going, on the ground that in the course of that research vivisection was to be adopted, subject to all the restrictions which the law has imposed upon it. Not even the eminent authority and the admirable speech of Dr. Liddon can persuade us to the contrary, and we may at the same time point out that his supporters were less judicious than himself. Certainly the Bishop of Oxford, from whom we might have expected better things, and Professor Freeman, from whom we might have expected exactly what we got, did not advance their cause by their intemperate harangues.

We have no desire to dwell at any length on so painful a subject as the Durham matrimonial suit, but it has occupied so much of public attention that it would be affectation to pretend to ignore it in the History of the Week. Sir James Hannen's judgment is completely in accordance with that formed by all lawyers at a very early stage of the case, indeed when only the evidence on the part of the petitioner had been given. Lord Durham was singularly ill-advised in making the attempt to invalidate his marriage, and the sympathy which must naturally be felt for him at the terrible misfortune which has clouded his married life is seriously diminished by that attempt. It is not likely that many husbands would be found to make public such details of their courtship and marriage as those which have gratified the lovers of gossip during the progress of the trial, and therefore the clear exposition of the law given by the President of the Court will not, we trust, require to be again applied. He has, however, reaffirmed the correct view which Lord Durham's counsel had endeavoured to confute, that the only question is whether at the time of the marriage the contracting parties were capable of understanding the nature of the contract. It is for the protection of the one who is incapable of understanding it, and not for the relief of the other, that the jurisdiction of the Court to nullify the marriage is to be invoked. But apart from this judicial decision, there is another lesson to be learned from this painful and pitiful story. It is to be hoped that that other lesson will be laid to heart by match-making mothers and match-making sisters.

RUSSIA AND AFGHANISTAN.

The announcement made by Mr. Gladstone last night of the agreement between England and Russia that no further advance is to be made on debateable territory on either side does not afford much ground for satisfaction. No one ever supposed that the Afghans would make a further advance, and it is to be distinctly regretted that a *quasi* sanction should have been accorded to Russia's continued occupation of the positions she has already seized. In any case the Russian forces can easily resume their advance at a moment's notice. On the whole there is little, we fear, in the most recent aspects of the Afghan frontier question to reassure us as to the maintenance of peace between England and Russia. Whether this country is prepared for war or not—and that is a question upon which we have never hesitated to express a very decided opinion—it is absolutely impossible for any British Government to put up with the pretensions of Russia on the Afghan frontier. It is understood that the Russian Government is, as usual, prolific in pacific assurances, while the Russian newspapers, though under the strictest official censorship, are breathing defiance against England and plainly proclaiming the intention of Russia to advance upon and appropriate Herat. Nor is there the slightest evidence that the conciliatory words of M. de Giers at St. Petersburg are in any way borne out by the deeds of his Master's generals on the Afghan border. Russian generals are, it appears, proverbially disinclined to be held in check by orders from headquarters—their waywardness habitually taking the form of appropriating in the Czar's name (but altogether contrary to his Majesty's wish) territories which belong to his neighbours. These doings of his representatives, though highly blameworthy and regrettable in themselves, the Government of the Emperor invariably, though of course reluctantly, feels compelled to accept as *faits accomplis*.

Opinion in well-informed diplomatic circles on the Continent is still inclined to anticipate a peaceable solution of the present difficulty. If, however, that impression is based upon the belief that England will not fight Russia under any circumstances, we can at once declare it to be unfounded. It is, perhaps, necessary that foreigners, as well as our own Radical Government at home, should be made to understand that the nation is determined to stand by the Ameer. Mr. Gladstone and his colleagues have broken pledges quite as solemn as those that bind us to Abdur Rahman Khan; and we should entirely decline to trust them now, if it were not that even they must be perfectly aware that any failure on their part to uphold the honour of the Empire at this supreme crisis would be followed by their immediate expulsion from office. They may be expected, therefore, to make what amends are still possible to repair their former folly of evacuating Candahar and scuttling out of Afghanistan. Fortunately the hopes of peace are not based solely on the inadequacy of British armaments or the imbecility of British statesmen. Although, as we have argued elsewhere, it would be absurd to count on our supposed "reconciliation" with Germany to obtain her diplomatic intervention in our favour, it is by no means improbable that the German Emperor's well-known anxiety to keep the peace between Russia and England may lead to an offer of German mediation before resort is had to the final arbitrament of the sword. At the same time, it is the duty of the British public to make up its mind to the prospect of having to enter upon a contest of the first magnitude. It is well understood that our military and naval authorities are already making preparations for war; but it might have supplied our diplomatic representations at St. Petersburg with some much-needed force, if the Government could have made up its mind to ask Parliament to sanction at once an expenditure on armaments large enough to prove that we are in earnest in our determination to resist Russian aggression at all hazards.

An examination of the question of the Afghan frontier shows that nothing could exceed the bald insolence of the Russian claims. The Under-Secretary for India on Thursday finally exploded the pretence, so favourably received in Germany, that those claims are warranted by an official English map of the disputed territory. The map referred to was explained to possess no authority whatever as to any portion of the country outside the Persian frontier. All recognised official maps, both English and Russian, draw the Afghan boundary-line at no point less than sixty miles north of the frontier now claimed by Russia. Her accusations against the Ameer in respect of the occupation of Penjdeh are absolutely unjustifiable. She rests her case on the fact that some former Ameers did not rule over Penjdeh. So far as that goes, some former Ameers did not rule over Herat itself. But Penjdeh has always been a dependency of Herat, and it can be proved by documents now in the Herat archives that Penjdeh has always paid tribute to Herat. Knowing these facts, but anxious to be still more certain of the exact extent of his rights, the Ameer in 1883 applied to the Viceroy of India for an authorised map of the frontier, and it was not until he found himself supported by this authority that Abdur Rahman a year ago ordered his troops to occupy the post. So much in the Ameer's defence. On the side of Russia the advance made is absolutely unjustifiable. She has overrun the Ameer's province of Badghees, seizing the Pass of Zulficar and threatening the Pass of Robat, both of which are not only in Afghan territory, but are necessary outworks of Herat. The violence of this proceeding is still farther aggravated by the fact that it constitutes a gross breach of faith with the British Government. When the Russians had occupied Merv, England only agreed not to oppose this advance on the condition that a Joint Commission should be appointed for delimiting the boundary between the Merv Turkomans and Afghanistan. To this Russia assented with apparent cordiality, but has since been guilty of every kind of subterfuge to avoid the fulfilment of her part of the agreement. If her claims were as just as they are palpably the reverse, it is simply preposterous that at the very time when Sir Peter Lumsden was waiting to proceed with the work of the Frontier Commission, the Russians should have hastened to lay violent hands, not only on the territory which they had agreed should be made a subject of negotiation, but on positions as to which no doubt has ever existed that they pertain to the Ameer's dominions.

As to the question how far Russia is prepared for war, there are several obvious considerations. First of all, there is the meeting held last autumn between the three Emperors at Skiernievice, and the probability that, amongst other terms then agreed upon, *carte blanche* was given to Russia to pursue her Asiatic forward policy. Another point not to be forgotten is that Russia has carefully chosen a moment when we are embarrassed with military operations in the Soudan. The next thing to be remembered is that the highest and most experienced Indian military authorities —so the *St. James's Gazette* has repeatedly declared for the last five months, without the slightest official contradiction of the assertion —long ago warned the Government of the Russian advance in Central Asia, while one of our most distinguished soldiers says that "Russia can in from 80 to 100 days put "95,000 regular troops into positions from "which we can hardly drive her, and from "which she can undertake the invasion of "India at her own convenience, and with a "fair expectation of success." These, and other facts like them, are not to be got rid of in the airy and flippant style in which some of the highly Superior Persons, who do us the honour to instruct us of a morning, seem inclined to dispose of them. They are the warnings of responsible British officers, men holding high positions, thoroughly experienced, and fully acquainted with the facts of which they write.

To speculate upon the strength or weakness of the Russian forces on the Afghan frontier is perfectly idle. Nothing is known on the subject. What we do know is that the Russian plans were drawn up long ago, and that preparations for carrying them out did not begin yesterday. It is true that her base is far off and her communications easily threatened. That is a fact to be placed on the other side of the account. But such disadvantages as these are materially lessened if plenty of time has been spent (as in this case) on precautionary measures. And really it is surprising to observe how little is thought in some quarters of the security of our own communications in view of the present state of India. It may be added that to trust to the Afghans to break the Russian advance in the first instance is to lean on a broken reed. The Afghans will hardly remain our allies if at the very outset we give them reason to suppose that the Russians are stronger than we are. It is painful to have to make these observations; but nothing apparently will rouse our countrymen to a due sense of the dangers prepared for them by Radical mismanagement except the very plainest speaking. Unhappily, there is no disguising the fact that our own strength is not only far below what it ought to be, but also below—and this is the thought that moves our keenest indignation—what it might have been. Of course we must do our best now, and, so far as British skill and pluck and endurance are concerned, we may trust Sir Donald Stewart and our brave soldiers to do their duty to the utmost of their power if hostilities should unhappily break out. But the people who hinder the country from doing its best are the writers who persist in circulating delusive accounts of the true state of affairs.

THE PLAIN TRUTH.

There are certain unpleasant facts intimately affecting our national welfare which it is so disagreeable for Englishmen to be told, and so disagreeable to be obliged to tell, that several of our leading organs of public opinion seem to have made up their minds to ignore them as far as possible. To publish abroad these unpalatable truths is to earn in these quarters the nick-name of "Alarmist." To deduce the unwelcome but inexorable inferences that follow from undeniable facts is to incur rebuke for "Pessimism." To point out a national danger, or indicate a source of national weakness, is to be roughly set down as a "croaker," if not as a downright unpatriotic citizen, who is eager to seize upon and make the most of anything that seems to tell against his own country. And yet what can be more feeble (more "womanish," to borrow a favourite phrase with some of these writers), than this persistent determination not to see facts as they are—these efforts to gloze over distasteful truths, and to depict the outlook of our national affairs in a roseate hue for which there is no real warrant whatever? What other result can follow from this irrational proceeding except the aggravation of the very evils which it is sought to conceal? Far better, far manlier, and far safer, too, to boldly face the position, however unpromising it may appear, and to seek, even if it be at the eleventh hour, for the best available remedy.

There is not and cannot be any real misunderstanding of the present position of England in Europe. The policy of the last five years has been carried out to the bitter end. Five years seem but a short time in the life of a nation. But when a dozen or so of its leading men—the men to whom the chief powers of government are entrusted—lay their heads together to destroy its strength, to wreck its influence, and to degrade its name, then five years will not be found at all too short a time in which to effect their object. In the case of England the thing has actually been done, and done most thoroughly. No need now to detail the manner of the process. Week by week and month by month it has been our weary and thankless task to study its several phases and trace the various stages of its development. And now it looks very much as if the end had arrived at last—very much as if the moment had come for reaping that which has been so industriously sown. At such a crisis let Englishmen at least cease to cherish illusions, and insist on looking the truth steadily in the face. Let us beware of those who put fancies for facts, and mistake hopeful dreams for solid realities. Nothing can be more certain than that our former close understanding with the Central Powers of Europe is a thing of the past. We can no more revert to it now than the bankrupt prodigal can spend over again the fortune he has squandered. When we threw away their alliance, they betook themselves elsewhere, to quarters which happened to be unfriendly to England. And so it came about that they upon whom we once might have relied to aid us bound themselves to our enemies by pledges from which they cannot now go back. What these engagements signify in the case of France, for example, we shall all realise very soon, when the new Financial Agreement relating to Egypt, to be signed within the next few days, comes before Parliament for its sanction. The scheme will be found to mean the establishment of a Multiple Control pure and simple, and the nullification of all advantage to England in return for the sacrifices she has already made and is still making in Egypt. As to the engagements which our former allies may have entered into with Russia at the meeting of the three Emperors last autumn at Skiernievice, the effect of them is, as we now see, to set Russia free to carry out her plans in Central Asia—free, that is, from any apprehension for the safety of her frontier in Europe. A favourite illusion of our optimists at home is that Lord Granville's ten minutes' speech of apology to Prince Bismarck is sufficient to undo the past and to re-establish our relations with Germany on their former footing of cordiality. It may safely be affirmed that neither Lord Granville's explanations last week nor the Prime Minister's amiable utterances of last Thursday have had that effect. The "reconciliation" being first taken for granted, it is further confidently assumed that we may now count on Germany interfering on our behalf to check Russian designs in Asia. In other words, we, who have rejected the proffered friendship of two of the members of the Triple Alliance, may rely on their actively supporting us in our quarrel with the third. Could infatuation further go?

And now turn to the other aspect of our national position. It may be, or rather it ought to be, perfectly true to say, as Mr. Gladstone said on Thursday, that the friendship of no country in the world is necessary, or ever has been necessary, to enable this country to maintain its position. That is a laudably patriotic sentiment, we admit. But having divested themselves of allies, it was all the more incumbent on our rulers to take every precaution to meet alone and unaided the emergencies of which they have for years been fully forewarned. Have those precautions been taken? At this moment are we in a condition to resist Russian aggression in Asia? Valiant newspaper editors assure us that there is nothing to fear on that score, and warn Russia that we are better prepared for war than she is. What Russia's capabilities may be we do not discuss in this article. But how stands the case as regards ourselves? Take our Army first. Listen to what military experts say about it—about the miserable inadequacy of its numbers; about the difficulty of getting recruits; about the quality of the material we *do* get; about the wholesale waste

of men and money that the present system entails. The whole machine of our military organisation has evidently been thrown out of gear by a trumpery war in the Soudan against a barbarian chieftain. Our little force in Africa is, indeed, "an army of heroes," but it is composed entirely of picked men—the very flower of the Queen's troops. Next, as to the Navy, the country is too painfully well aware of what is the judgment of every naval authority in the country as to the number of our ships, the efficiency of their armaments both offensive and defensive, and the numerical strength of our marine. The scathing criticisms of Sir Edward Reed in Thursday's *Times*, and the fresh revelations forthcoming in last night's *Pall Mall Gazette*, have thrown further light on the subject. And finally, after reviewing the state of our foreign relations and the condition of our military and naval forces, may we beg our readers to consider for a moment what the aspect of affairs in India itself can be which has induced some of the highest officials, both civil and military, to address over and over again during the last few months the most urgent warnings to the Home Government on the necessity of taking vigilant precautions against an Indian Rebellion? Why are British troops required to keep a sharp watch over the proceedings of certain native Princes? Why is it that Government servants who have the best means of knowing what the condition of India is, have begged "a hundred times" that places of refuge may be at once provided for the 30,000 European women, 25,000 Eurasian women, and 15,000 children who are now in India? Let any candid man ponder over these matters, and then say honestly whether there exists the slightest justification or excuse for the highly cheerful and confident tone in which the position and prospects of the country are just now discussed in certain quarters.

THE DURHAM MARRIAGE.

The *cause célèbre* which has absorbed the gossip of the day, to the exclusion of more important subjects, is remarkable only for the swiftness and severity of the punishment which has overtaken the misguided couple. For a dowerless beauty to marry a wealthy Earl without loving him is not so rare an offence as it ought to be. From the religious point of view, it doubtless implies a mental or moral incapacity to understand the full extent and obligation of the sacred contract. But if this were to be ground for annulling a marriage lawfully solemnised and consummated, not a few titled ladies might be in danger of notice to quit, and many persons born in wedlock might be unexpectedly crossed with the bar sinister. The judgment is only what everyone of common sense must have foreseen from the moment that Lord Durham's evidence was given. His case is no worse than that of hundreds of others whose wives have become insane or otherwise disabled from the duties of marriage. It is not so bad as if, without any mental derangement, his wife had declared a fixed aversion to his person, rejected his society and defied his wishes, yet giving no cause for divorce. His Lordship married for beauty, and got what he desired. He never asked for love—at all events, was never given the least ground for expecting it—and has therefore no right to complain. To attempt to set aside the marriage for lack of what was clearly no part of the bargain is not at all to his Lordship's credit. The plea of insanity is refuted by his own story. If he was serious in coming to the conclusion that Lady Durham was an idiot, as he says he did at dinner on the wedding day, his obvious duty was to restore her at once to her friends, and the fact being established, the marriage would, of course, be null and void. It is a very different thing to go on living with her as his wife, introducing her as such to society, and then when his own feelings (as he writes to her sister) are estranged by her conduct and he is determined on a separation, to hark back on former suspicions, and set up a charge of insanity. For his own credit as a man of honour and probity, we are bound to conclude that Lord Durham did not seriously believe his bride to be an "idiot" on the wedding day. "Stupid" he may have found her, but as he then and afterwards held to the marriage for his own pleasure he cannot be allowed to annul it because the circumstances are changed.

It did not require two Archbishops and a host of minor authorities male and female to establish the lady's sanity. The story is only too plain. She may have given her heart to another, or she may have had no heart to give; at all events, she never pretended to give it to Lord Durham. She married him because it was her *métier* to marry, and he was an excellent *parti*. There was no compulsion on the part of her family; her sister very probably told her not to do it if she did not "care for him." But of course it was a capital match, and she could never hope to do better. Love might come afterwards or might be dispensed with; the thing had to be done, and she would do it. This is all very mean and worldly, but it is the reverse of insanity; according to her lights it was the wisest thing to do for herself. It is to her honour that she would not pretend an affection she did not feel. In speaking to others she was bound to say the proper thing of the man she had accepted; but to himself she was as cold as ice. He never received a single mark of affection; nay, he complained of her being more distant to him than to any one else. She became colder and more distant as the day approached. It would be quite natural in a girl of any spirit to turn against a man who could be content to take her on such terms. That was his business; hers was to accept the title and the position as honestly as she could. It is not to be thought that the most frivolous girl could go through such an ordeal without a struggle. When the fatal knot was tied she was for a moment dismayed and mechanical; alone with her husband she was "stupid," and closer acquaintance increased her aversion. He begins very early to complain, and she is seen to be unhappy. The strain is more than she can bear, and her reason gives way. *Voilà tout!* Lord Durham has done himself no good by making his pitiful story public. Let us hope that it may teach some young men and women in fashionable society that marriage is not a mere bargain between passion and worldly position, but a holy estate "to be taken "in hand advisedly, soberly, reverently, and in "the fear of God."

CHURCH PROGRESS.—II.

Voluntary Benefactions.

We are endeavouring from time to time to present in a clear and succinct form a few facts gathered from the mine of information contained in the *Official Year-Book of the Church of England*, in order to illustrate the progress which the Church is making in the country, so far as that can been judged from external indications. One objection often urged against an endowed Church is that the possession of endowments discourages voluntary offerings. The fallacy of this theory is shown when we come to examine some of the particulars of the benefactions made to the Church. As a specimen of the spirit in which offerings are forthcoming from private sources, we shall refer first to the evidence afforded by the recorded amount of the liberal gifts contributed during a period of five years (1879-1883) to meet grants from ecclesiastical funds. When grants are made, either by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners or by Queen Anne's Bounty, it is on the understanding that the localities assisted are, on their side, to contribute also. Now the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, during the period named above, made a grant of £174,000 in aid of the augmentation of benefices and of the erection of parsonages. What was done by local efforts to meet this grant? We find that a sum of no less than £748,300 was raised from private sources for this object. Then there was a special fund raised for maintaining extra ministrations amongst miners. Towards this the Ecclesiastical Commissioners gave £132,000, which was met by subscriptions to the amount of nearly £133,000. The operations of Queen Anne's Bounty tell the same story of outside help from the corporate Church funds being always supplemented by the munificence of individual Churchmen. In these five years the Bounty contributed £125,000 for the aid of poor livings; and to this was added a sum of £157,000 from local sources. The earnestness of the voluntary efforts by which the Church's work is carried on is also remarkably illustrated by two interesting examples given in the *Year-Book*. One is the case of the diocese of Exeter, from which the new diocese of Truro was separated off in 1876. In the seven years 1877-83 Exeter Churchmen have raised by voluntary effort alone more than £820,000. The other instance is that of the Rural Deanery of Sheffield, where, in the single year ending Easter, 1883, the sum voluntarily subscribed was at least £27,000, of which nearly one-tenth was given to Foreign Missions, and a slightly less sum to Home Work other than local objects. Such facts tell their own tale.

But the case is even farther strengthened when we come to consider what has been done during more than forty years past in the building and restoring of churches. Let it never be forgotten that the demand made by Dissenters and Secularists for "Disendowment" of the Church includes the confiscation of the vast sums which Churchmen, without a single penny of aid from the State, have expended on these fabrics designed for the worship of the Church. We take first what is commonly known as Lord Hampton's Return, presented to the House of Lords, which exhibits a summary of the expenditure on church building and restoration between 1840 and 1874. During that period 1,727 churches were built, and 7,117 churches and 27 Cathedrals restored; and the cost of all this was £25,550,000. This calculation takes no account of what has been going on in the last ten years since 1874, which can only be roundly estimated by piecing together several isolated pieces of information. Thus in Manchester diocese £1,000,000 was spent in church building and restoration between 1872 and 1881; in Lincoln, £660,000; in Ripon, £608,000; in Winchester, £474,000; in Durham, £367,000; in Worcester, £318,000. Comparing this list with the corresponding returns for 1840-1874 (namely, Manchester, £1,511,000; Lincoln, £973,000; Ripon, £955,000; Winchester, £2,043,000; Durham, £687,000; Worcester, £1,027,000), it is fair to infer that the general ratio of the expenditure has been enormously greater since 1874 than it was before. A similar conclusion is to be drawn from two other facts. The first is that between 1874 and 1883 the new churches built were 848 in number, or an average of nearly 85 every year (as against an average, during the period covered by Lord Hampton's Return, of less than 50 churches built in a year); while the number of churches restored between 1874 and 1883 was 2,394, or an annual average of nearly 240 (as against a yearly average of a little more than 204 in the earlier period). The other fact which we adduce is this—that in the single year 1883 the sum spent on Church fabrics was close upon £895,000.

The object with which these figures and facts are cited is, let us say once more, precisely this: to show that whereas it is alleged by the Church's enemies that her endowments belong to the nation, and may justly be taken from her and applied to national purposes, their scheme for despoiling her goes far beyond even this. It extends to robbing her of more than her ancient endowments—namely, of a sum amounting at the very lowest computation to £35,000,000, which Churchmen have devoted out of their private pockets to the creation and maintenance of her fabrics during the last forty-five years; in other words during the lifetime of men who are now in the prime of manhood. We do not here argue the question of the ancient Church Endowments. Were the title of the Church to retain them as ill-founded as we know it to be indefeasible, still the fact would remain that the Radical Dissent of the day is seeking to mulct her of that which on any principle short of Socialism must be hers; and therefore in so doing it brands itself publicly as what it really is—the advocate of Fraud, Theft, and Sacrilege of the most flagrant and shameless kind.

GEORGE ELIOT AS A LAWYER.

This is a light in which few people, of late years at all events, have considered one who is beyond question—judged solely as a novelist—the greatest woman who has written novels since Jane Austen's day. In the flood of criticism which now spreads so freely over the life of George Eliot, it is seldom that the conscientious thoroughness of her work is noticed. She seems to have gone through a course of reading to prepare for each one of her masterpieces. True, for her earlier works she had learnt enough from a youth spent in Warwickshire. But for *Romola* we find her reading Florentine history, and for *Daniel Deronda* the history of the Jews. It was in the same painstaking way that she studied Blackstone for *Felix Holt*. Not content with this, she found a friend in Mr. Frederic Harrison—who still, we observe, figures in the *Law List* as an "equity draftsman and conveyancer"—to criticise the manuscript of the novel from a purely legal standpoint. On the 25th April, 1866, she writes to John Blackwood on the matter (*Life*, vol. ii., p. 427):—"I think I ought to tell you "that I have consulted a legal friend about my "law, to guard against errors. The friend is a "Chancery barrister, who 'ought to know.' After "I had written the first volume I applied to him, "and he has since read through my MS." It must surely be one of the few jokes to be found in the sombre pages of the *Life*, when the same writer says two days later, in a letter to her critic, that she sends him "a duplicate copy of a "chapter or two that are likely to make a lawyer "shudder by their poetic licence."

Knowing this studied care, it is strange to find that an "irresponsible critic" in the *Edinburgh Review* (October, 1866) took upon himself to arraign the accuracy of George Eliot's law in *Felix Holt*. There are few who cannot recall the simple story. Esther Lyon or Bycliffe, on whose legal claim to the property of the Transomes the machinery hinges, is the only daughter of a Bycliffe who died as a young man very shortly after his escape from imprisonment in France three or four years before the Battle of Waterloo. He was the lineal descendant of an Edward Bycliffe on whom an ultimate remainder in the estate was settled by John Justus Transome in 1729. By the deed of that year the estates were limited to the Transomes in tail, the then representative of the family being one Thomas Transome, the son of John Justus. He could not persuade his father to join with him in suffering a recovery which would at once have barred the estate of his own issue and also the Bycliffe remainder. He therefore created what conveyancers call a "base fee" in favour of the Durfeys, through whom the estates afterwards reverted to the Transomes by the Durfey-Transome marriage. The insecurity of the Transomes' possession was this: the moment the descendants in tail failed the Bycliffe remainder came into possession. The Transomes had the whole estate *minus* only the Bycliffe remainder, which came into active life when Tommy Transome, the last descendant of the splendthrift Thomas, fell a victim to an election riot. This framework was severely commented upon by the *Edinburgh* Reviewer. It was, in his eyes, another illustration of Tommy Transome's proposition that "you'd "better not be meddlin' wi' things belonging to "the law, else you'll be catched up in a big wheel "and fly to bits." He says: "Base fees and "remainder men produce a salutary feeling of "respect, but the anxieties which disturbed the "peaceful enjoyment of Transome Park might "have been dissipated by a careful examination "of the title." Amid this severe criticism it is pleasant to remember that "conveyancers reading "the novel have been known to lament seriously, "as if the thing had happened to one of their own "clients, that the parties (*i.e.*, Thomas Transome) "did not take better advice" (Pollock's *Land Laws*, p. 108, *n*). And at the time when the criticism appeared one of these same sages was ready to take up the cudgels. "A Mouldy Con-"veyancer"—who might, by the way, on internal evidence alone, be identified with Mr. Frederic Harrison, for he seems to have read the letter before February 4, though it did not appear in print until February 11, 1867—wrote in the *Pall Mall Gazette*, that in his humble opinion Tommy Transome's famous proposition was better illustrated by the Reviewer than by the authoress. "The time in which the romance is "laid preceded the ingenious but ever-lamentable "Act for the Abolition of Fines and Recoveries," and Mr. Thomas Transome was perfectly well able to levy a fine. "This would produce exactly "the effect mentioned in the text, and would "create an estate which would have continued as "long as there was issue of Mr. Thomas Tran-"some inheritable under the entail, but would "not affect the estate in remainder of the "Bycliffes."

The head and front, however, of the Reviewer's attack was directed against the alleged violation by George Eliot of the well-known rule of perpetuities. Pursuing his cynical vein, he said that the authors of *Felix Holt* and *Aurora Leigh* were "equally incapable of understanding that per-"petuities are among the few anomalies which "are unknown to the law of England. The "settlement of 1729 could only take effect for "twenty-one years beyond a life in being; and, "consequently, even if Maurice Bycliffe, the father "of Esther, was the immediate successor of the "original remainder man, the effect of the limita-"tion must have expired long before 1832." To this "A Mouldy Conveyancer" pointedly rejoined that "the able Reviewer's notion that the co-"existence of such various rights in an estate is "forbidden by the rule against perpetuities is "based upon a total misconception of the nature "and objects of that rule, which any student in "my pupil-room would tell him refers only to "estates that cannot be barred." He proceeds, with a great deal of dry humour, to bear witness to the accuracy of the legal propositions laid down in *Felix Holt*, though he cannot stifle a regret that George Eliot "did not think proper to promote "an alliance between Harold Transome, Esquire, "and Miss Esther Bycliffe. Such a matrimonial "alliance, especially if followed by issue, would "most effectually have brought about what I "conceive to be the true καταστροφή of the work "—viz., the quieting of the title to the Transome

"estate, the previous uncertainty as to which has 'imparted to the tale its romantic interest, and 'the preparation of such a settlement as ought "to have been made in contemplation of the "marriage, would have been a rare and precious "event in the life of the fortunate conveyancer to "whose privileged lot it should have fallen to "have drawn it, an event to be marked in his "fee-book '*cressé notâ.*'"

Enough has been said to show how completely George Eliot's knowledge of the law of England was vindicated, and how thoroughly she must have studied books far more advanced than the celebrated *Commentaries*, so as to be able to present a very uncommon legal position with such perfect skill. Minor indications of the same acumen are not wanting in her works. Passing by the exquisite picture of the reading of Peter Featherstone's will by that "lawyer of the old school," Mr. Standish, a word of notice must be given to the two lines of the trial scene in *Adam Bede* which bear an eloquent testimony to the sternness of the times when counsel was forbidden to urge even a plea for mercy on behalf of an uncondemned criminal. It is the more refreshing to note these signs of historical accuracy at a day when a Court of Justice is perhaps the favourite scene upon which novelists love to dilate. In no single romance of modern reputation is there such evidence of the thoughtful care with which every word of George Eliot's books was penned as is contained in those two lines, or in the "opinion" of the Attorney-General and "the first con-"veyancer of his day," which speaks for itself in the pages of *Felix Holt*.

Reviews.

THE PARSIS*.

The history of his own race and people that Dosabhai Frimja Karaka—which we are warned in a prefatory note to render as Mr. Dosabhai Frimja, not as Mr. Karaka—has supplied for English readers is by no means devoid of interest for such readers; though, if we may judge them by ourselves, they would have preferred a less elaborate history. In the two goodly volumes before us, which are admirably printed and admirably illustrated—indeed, we must pronounce the illustrations to be among the best specimens of colour-printing with which we are acquainted—the author gives an account of a community which traces its origin back to the old Persian empire, and has for some twelve hundred years occupied a by no means unimportant place among the inhabitants of India. The story is not one of triumphs in arms or triumphs in statecraft, but there are other triumphs no less worthy of record which may fairly be claimed for the Parsis. Their roll of fame contains many names distinguished for acts of active benevolence, and though the characteristic fact that they have invariably dwelt on good terms with the powers that be somewhat detracts from any special claim which they possess upon the attention of Englishmen as being at present among the most loyal subjects of the Empress of India, there is no doubt that, as the writer asserts, they at present occupy a "permanent and honourable position in "the Indian community, which enjoys tranquil "security under the strong arm of English power." Their "happy knack" of getting on, to which he calls attention is, perhaps, not altogether consistent with the possession of a strong national backbone or a strong sense of national life, and, as Mr. Frimja himself confesses, "The name "Parsi is now identified rather with good citizen-"ship and commercial activity than with the "martial and administrative attributes necessary "to the supporters of a great Empire." Their latest deed of valour was the share which they took in the temporary repulse of the Mohammedans in the twelfth century, and their great hero, who played so prominent a part in that repulse, is duly glorified. The reprieve thus won was, however, only temporary; and when the followers of the False Prophet returned in increased numbers and with renewed zeal, the Parsis had to abandon their old settlement and establish themselves at Surat, which has long been their headquarters. At an early period in the seventeenth century they established business relations with the different foreign factories on the western coast of India, and when later in the century Bombay was transferred from Portuguese to English rule, the epoch of Parsi prosperity commenced. But it was not till the present century that the epoch of that prosperity culminated, and the profitable trade with China which was developed during the first half of it laid the foundation for the greatest fortunes acquired among the Parsis. It is not, however, in the fortunes so acquired, but in the use made of those fortunes, that we find the chief claim of the Fire-worshippers to a prominent place among the Indian subjects of our Queen and Empress. The liberality which they have given of their substance to every good work, without any distinction of creed or of nationality, constitutes one of their great claims on the attention of English readers, and on the Parsi roll of fame which is here recorded the names which stand forward most prominently are those who, in the language of their panegyrist, "have freely given of their "capital to any cause that enlisted their sympathies "or that seemed calculated either to benefit suffering humanity or to reveal their loyalty to the "English Government."

The total number of the Parsis does not amount to 100,000, and by far the largest number of them is to be found in Western India, more than half of that largest number being residents in Bombay. Their numbers are still increasing, and the proportion of children under one year of age is higher, and the average mortality lower, among them than in any other class in Bombay. They take great pains about their system of education, and their commercial honesty might fittingly be regarded as an example by their Christian brethren in the East. On the subject of their religion, which must always be one of great interest to every student of the various creeds of the world, Mr. Dosabhai Frimja has a good deal to say, and the chapters of the book devoted to this topic are certainly the most interesting part of it. He maintains that his brethren are not Fire-worshippers, but God-worshippers, and that fire is only to them a symbol of Divinity, not the Divinity itself. Their great prophet Zoroaster has a chapter devoted to himself; and though long intercourse with the Hindoos has introduced practices at variance with the teaching of their prophet, and though the remarkable absence of the sacred books to which they were wont to refer in the ancestral home of their religion has been a stumblingblock in their way, the writer maintains that the Parsi creed remains to the present day a pure and distinct religion. His exposition of the views current among the Parsis of the present day is full of interest, not the less so but rather the more so in that it disagrees in many respects with the theories of European critics of the primitive Aryan religions. But of more general interest are the descriptions which he gives of the quaint ceremonies connected with the birth, the marriage, and death of his co-religionists. The chapters devoted to these subjects are likely to be among the most attractive in his work, and, did space permit, we should have liked to make not a few extracts from them. We must, however, refer those who are interested in such matters to the two volumes of the *History of the Parsis*, which are certainly creditable to the untiring energy and the patriotic devotion of the author. His object has been to make Parsis and Englishmen better acquainted with each other, and certainly no Englishman can rise from the perusal of his volumes without entertaining a higher opinion than he has hitherto done of the claim of our Parsi fellow-subjects on our sympathies. But while mainly dealing with the Zoroastrians of India, he has not neglected the Zoroastrians of Persia, who are almost exclusively confined to Yezd and the surrounding villages, and owe much to the good offices of their brethren in Bombay. The treatment which they endured at the hands of the Shah and his Mohammedan subjects was most harsh and oppressive; and the very name by which they are known in Persia, that of Guebres, is indicative of the contempt in which they are held by the ruling class. But the more serious practical consequences of that contempt have been in a great measure removed by the present Shah at the instigation of England, prompted mainly by the Bombay Parsis; and the "jazia," an obnoxious tax weighing heavily on the Fire-worshippers of Persia, was abolished in 1882. The story of the efforts of the Parsi community to bring about that abolition is well told, but it will probably not excite so much interest among English readers as the chapters which the author devotes to an account of the manners and customs of his fellow-religionists. The description of the Towers of Silence, illustrated with plans, is very remarkable, and the author argues stoutly in favour of the funeral system of the Parsis, which allows the fowls of the air rather than the worms of the ground to dispose of the mortal remains of those whom they hold dear.

We must not part from Mr. Frimja's volume without a word of commendation to the publishers for the admirable manner in which they have been produced. Print and paper are alike excellent, and, as we have already said, the coloured illustrations are among the best specimens of their class with which we are acquainted. That of the Parsi lady in the second volume is specially good, and is an excellent example of delicate colouring.

* *History of the Parsis.* By Dosabhai Frimja Karaka, C.S.I. In Two Vols.—London: Macmillan and Co., 1884.

NEW NOVELS.

*Affinities** is not a book to be read with much pleasure or profit. The story itself is weird and extravagant, and is, moreover, overlaid with pages on pages of dialogue no less extravagant, but more uninteresting. Judith Fountain, the heroine, describes herself as "an insoluble sub-"stance," whatever this may mean; but despite her insolubility, if we may coin a word equally unintelligible, she falls a victim to the weird influence of Esme Colquhoun, a kind of mixture of Oscar Wilde and Irving Bishop. According to the novelist's theory all life is merely "a question of "soul affinity," and her unhappy heroine is very unfortunate in her soul affinities, especially in coming across a substantial body "the tenement of cer-"tain elemental forces which by magnetic attrac-"tion might act upon other persons of exceptional "organisation." The body in question belongs to Esme Colquhoun. This gentleman, "massive, "erect, commanding, with his aureola (*sic*) of "red-gold hair, his fiery glance, his almost in-"spired face, in which there was, notwithstanding "its beauty, something suggestive rather of "Lucifer than of an archangel," marries her for her money, while himself in love, with all the love which his selfishness allows him to feel, with Mrs. Borlase, an artistic grass-widow. Judith accepts the æsthetic and magnetic Lucifer, under the influence of his odic force and despite the warnings, delivered at somewhat undue length, of Major Graysett, an Indian officer who, priding himself on his straightforward common-sense, is no sooner brought within the sphere of her attraction than he develops a leaning towards occult subjects, especially occult subjects as personified in Miss Fountain. The "soul affinity" between him and Judith, is not, however, sufficiently powerful to overcome the "spiritual potency" exercised by Mr. Esme Colquhoun, though it is sufficient to make poor Graysett thoroughly miserable. When, after her marriage, Judith becomes equally miserable, and finds this spiritual potency exercised for evil and not for good, the Major proposes to deliver her from it by the very natural process of elopement with her, a proceeding of which the mad doctor and the New Pythagorean Sybil whom he consults as to its propriety, express a decided approval. But the hopeful scheme is marred by Judith's sudden death, caused by the putting forth by her husband of "all the force of his soul, all the vital "energy of his being, concentrated in one intense "passion of hate." When his "inner voice," as he contemplates his wife's picture, says "Die! "die!" the result follows, "as if thought were "dynamic," and "the murderous will must have "sped like destroying lightning to the accomplish-"ment of its purpose." There may, perhaps, be some readers so peculiarly constituted that they will enjoy page after page of this would-be impressive mysticism; but to our mind it is but dreary unwholesome stuff, relieved from being dangerous by being dull. We can only regret that a novelist of unquestionable powers like Mrs. Campbell Praed should have wasted her powers over it.

* *Affinities.* By Mrs. Campbell Praed. In Two Vols.—London: R. Bentley and Son, 1885.

The *Double Dealing** which gives its name to Miss Southam's new novel is not confined to the vicious hero, Mr. Christopher Champernowne, but the virtuous hero, Mr. Patrick Romilly, also indulges in a course which cannot be called straightforward. It is, indeed, with a good purpose in view, and in order to reconcile Miss Penelope Romilly, the heroine, to the strange provision in her uncle's will which makes her future dependent on her marriage with Patrick, that that gentleman passes under his brother's name. But even such a doing of evil that good may come, apart from the improbability of his being able to keep up the deception in real life, is hardly suitable to a virtuous hero. He suffers from it, as, when Penelope discovers that she has been led on to love the man who was, so to speak, her testamentary husband, she resolutely determines to have nothing to do with him. It may be mentioned that he had, in an earlier part of the book, no less resolutely determined to have nothing to do with her—which makes them equal—and when in the end they do marry neither will be able to taunt the other with ante-nuptial perversity. Patrick's quarrel with Penelope is the result of the machinations of the vicious hero—a thoroughpaced scoundrel, who is a snob as well as a villain. Mr. Christopher Champernowne certainly comes off in the end far better than he deserves, and it is, to say the very least, quixotic on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick to present him with twenty thousand pounds as a reward for having all but ruined his happiness and shamefully compromised her reputation. An excuse is made for him on the ground of his disappointment in losing his uncle's property, which he had a fair right to expect, but forfeited by "post-h'obiting" the old gentleman, as his valet explains. Indignant at being "post-"h'obited," the cantankerous old colonel, who is one of Penelope's guardians, makes the eccentric will to which we have referred, and thus implants in her bosom a deep aversion to "that horrible "Pat." Champernowne, finding himself thus cut out, avails himself of some foolish passages in the way of flirtation which he has had with Penelope to extract black mail from her, and she is weak-minded enough to submit to his threats, and put herself into a false position with regard to him, the discovery of which sends Patrick off at a tangent. The novel cannot be called a good one by the most indulgent critic, but there is a certain amount of interest in the story and of humour in the characters—humour not by any means of a refined type, as witness the sketch of Mr. Benson and his patent soap—which prevent it from being hopelessly dull, like many of its contemporaries.

* *Double Dealing.* By Gertrude Armitage Southam. In Three Vols.—London: F. V. White and Co., 1884.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTICES.

Canon Spence's beautifully printed edition of *The Teaching of the Apostles* (Nisbet) should be in the hands of all students of that curious and instructive record of primitive Church life. It may profitably be compared with Mr. de Romestin's useful little work on the same subject, recently noticed in our columns. On the whole, we are rather inclined to prefer Mr. de Romestin's translation to Canon Spence's; but the great merit of the Canon's book is the admirable manner in which he shows that the picture here presented of the customs of the Church in the first age is in complete harmony with the constitution and polity of the Catholic Church as we find it at a later period—thus incidentally removing the gloss by which writers like Dean Howson and Archdeacon Farrar had endeavoured to find a sanction for their own peculiar notions of the character of Primitive Christianity. Canon Spence's dissertations are of great interest and value. In the second Excursus, the question of the authorship of the treatise is discussed with clearness and acumen. We should have been glad to hear what Canon Spence had to say with respect to the argument that the strictness of the rules concerning Apostles and Prophets rather militates against the extremely early date generally assigned to the book. The theory that possibly the writer may have been Symeon, the son of Cleopas, if no more than a guess, is ingeniously and attractively stated, and certainly seems to fit in with the few inferences as to the authorship which we are able to draw from the treatise itself. In the third Excursus, while alluding to the passages derived from St. Matthew and the less frequent ones from St. Luke, Canon Spence omits any mention of those citations of texts which do not agree exactly with either Evangelist. For instance in i. 4, and again in xvi. 1, the text is not verbally identical either with St. Matthew or St. Luke, but, curiously enough, does agree with Tatian's *Diatessaron*. In his notes Canon Spence certainly remarks of the first of these that the words quoted were doubtless preserved by tradition, and of the second that it is a reminiscence of St. Luke's language. But we cannot think that that is quite a sufficient account of the matter. The sixth Excursus, with the three which follow it, are to our thinking the best part of the book. They explain most lucidly and convincingly what were the respective positions and functions of the Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, Bishops, and Deacons, who are mentioned in the "Teaching." When the treatise was written, the order of Apostles, who are only thrice mentioned, was already passing away. The Prophets, of whom mention is here made no less than fifteen times, were just then the centre of Christian life, the builders-up of scattered Christian congregations. The Teacher's office, to which only one allusion occurs, was also about to disappear, or was merged in that of the Prophet. All these three functions—even that of the Prophet—were in fact transitory, whereas the Bishops and Deacons are clearly spoken of as the permanent officers of the Christian community. When the founders and spiritual guides of the Church had performed their work, the administration of it as an organised body would belong to the Bishops and Deacons. As to the omission of any mention of Priests, we know from other sources that in the first age all Priests were consecrated Bishops; and this inclusion of the lower order in the higher doubtless continued until the close of the first century. In conclusion we may say that Canon Spence's elucidation of the obscure passage in the "Teaching," xi. 13, strikes us as eminently sensible and satisfactory, and as offering a fair specimen of the ability and judgment which he has brought to bear on the fulfillment of a difficult task.

Mr. W. A. Bartlett's book, *The Profitableness of the Old Testament Scriptures* (Rivingtons), is the work of a great reader, a methodical gatherer of other people's sentiments, and a well-meaning author of sound and sober principles. It is well planned, carefully arranged, and is quite full of valued reflections, wise thoughts, and acceptable suggestions. In the strictly Biblical portion it is of real value; though we much prefer old to new criticisms—which the author sometimes passes over. The latter part of the book is a little prejudiced—for the Tridentine influence (thoroughly reformatory) is not sufficiently taken into account; while foreign contemporary theology (otherwise than the destructive criticism of the German Schools) is hardly recognised. In all such questions as those dealt with, it is not speculation and imagination that are needed, but Church authority. Without Church authority, men may too soon find themselves wanting the One True Faith.

The late Archdeacon Grant's sermons, *Within the Veil* (Bosworth and Co.), are remarkable for their scholarly characteristics, sound old-fashioned divinity, sage wisdom, and practical instructions. Though all are good, they greatly vary in merit. Some are, perhaps, a little wordy, and others a little vague theologically. "The Brook "in the Way," however, is a beautiful discourse; so is that on "The Many Mansions." The friends of the late Archdeacon would do well to obtain a volume of sterling merit, but of rare simplicity and real Christian beauty.

Dr. Joseph Cross's occasional discourses entitled *Old Wine and New* (C. Higham) are in their style, we are bound to declare, too newspaper-like, too sensational, and too little reverential to suit our old-fashioned tastes. In them there seems to be an occasional pandering to the depraved likings of this day for rhodomontade, excitement, and "tall talk," as the Yankees have it. The anecdotes and verses introduced are better for the platform than the pulpit, though sometimes pointed enough. On the other hand, we too gladly admit the power and pertinence of several well-put arguments, and there is often found much sound and sensible teaching, excellent sentiment, and a rough-and-ready eloquence, which must have been attractive and impressive in the pulpit. The book is well and plainly printed, and the intentions of its author are evidently excellent.

A publication so well known for its excellence as *The Statesman's Year-Book* (Macmillan) stands in little need of commendation. But for the benefit of any who may not be well acquainted with the volume it may be briefly described as furnishing information concerning all the countries of the world—their political institutions, religious condition, revenue and expenditure, taxation, national debt, Army, Navy, area, population, commerce, industry, railways, post and telegraphs, diplomatic representatives, and weights and measures. This year the particulars given with respect to Egypt, Italy, Russia, and some of the British Colonies have been recast. Under the head of Italy is included an account of the Church of Rome, with the names of the Popes since A.D. 752, a list of Cardinals, &c. As an example of the editor's enterprise we may note the fact that he has obtained, in advance of the new issue of the *Foreign Office List*, some of the details to be

published in that work. No pains have been spared to ensure the completeness and accuracy of a book which ought to be in the hands not merely of everybody connected with public affairs, but of every one who has any claim to be considered generally well-informed.

Molly Carew (J. Masters and Co.) is a very pretty little story, not perhaps very novel, but gracefully told. The heroine is a young girl who has to choose between her half-brother and her family inheritance. Steadfastly refusing to accept the inheritance to his detriment, she marries a very agreeable young gentleman to whom on her refusal it is left. As the young gentleman in question is content to share her love with her half-brother, and the half-brother is content to live in a little cottage on the estate, all ends well. The book would be better without the illustrations, which are quite unworthy of it.

Another delightful book for the young folk from the same publishers is *Mother Bunch*, which is a new story for boys and girls provided by that skilful artist to whom boys and girls are already indebted for so much pleasure, Miss Stella Austin. As in the case of the preceding work, the illustrations are by no means an additional attraction to the letterpress, but the latter requires no additional attraction. The dog Pat is the true hero of the story; but Mr. Pippo, the poor artist, and Mother Bunch herself, whose real name is Vera Congreve, are admirable sketches.

The first of a projected series of cheap books, to be called the *Waterside Series*, referring directly or indirectly to angling, and published by the well-known firm of Sampson Low and Co., is to hand. It consists of the admirable collection of papers by "Red Spinner" (W. Senior), which were first published some ten years since under the title of *Waterside Sketches*, and were at that time heartily welcomed. In their present form they will be even more acceptable, as the handy pocket size of the book in which they appear will enable anglers on their excursions to fill up odd half-hours by the perusal of some of the most delightful pages that have ever been penned in connection with their favourite sport.

In our Address to the Members of the Judicial Committee of Privy Council which appeared in last week's impression, a mistake occurred in one of the notes. The words "First Prayer-Book" should have been "Second Prayer-Book."

For Good Consideration is the title of a new volume of essays on legal maxims which will be issued very shortly by Mr. Elliot Stock; the same house announces for immediate publication a new novel drawn from Algerine life, entitled *Madame Naudet*.

At St. James's Hall on Monday, March 16, Mr. Charles Bertram will present to the public his clever entertainment of conjuring, prestidigitation, and experiments in magic, which he has given by command on several occasions before the Prince of Wales.

The Art Union of London have just issued a very fine steel engraving, the subject of which is the "Attack of the Vanguard (commanded by Sir W. Winter) on the Spanish Armada, 1588." In this plate the skill of the engraver has been marvellously exemplified, and it will doubtless be heartily welcomed by art patrons in every part of the world.

LAST NIGHT'S PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Lords, the Marquis of SALISBURY moved the second reading of the British Agricultural Association Bill.

In the Lower House, Lord HARTINGTON said the sixth volume of General Gordon's diary had been received; also a letter written by General Gordon, stating that the journal was a record of his opinion on certain events. The whole diary would be handed over to General Gordon's relatives, and the Government would confer with them as to their publication.

On the subject of National Arbitration, Mr. GLADSTONE, replying to Mr. RICHARD, said that in regard to the Afghan frontier there had recently arisen two subjects which were distinct from each other. One was the agreement made some time back between Russia and England to ascertain the frontier by inquiry and correspondence. The other was the advances which had been made by Russia and Afghan forces respectively to points within debateable ground. The one had relation to right, and the other to fact as to the advances of the forces. It had been agreed between Russia and England that no further advances were to be made on either side. The subject of the frontier was under treatment by diplomatic communications, and had not reached such a stage as to allow a full comparison of the two sides, Russia on the one, and England and the Ameer of Afghanistan on the other.

Sir S. NORTHCOTE inquired whether the arrangement that neither side should advance pending negotiations was of a permanent character.

Mr. GLADSTONE said the arrangement would last as long as there was occasion for it.

MONEY MARKET.

FRIDAY.

Consols closed at 96⅝ to 96⅞ for Money, and 96⅞ to 97⅛ for the Account.

In connection with the Public Debt of New Zealand, the Governor and Company of the Bank of England have given notice that they authorised to invite holders of Debentures to bring in their Debentures for conversion on the following terms, viz.:—For every £100 of such Debentures a new Debenture will be issued for the same amount, bearing intetest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for seven years, from April 15, 1885, to April 15, 1892, when it will be converted into £107 New Zealand 4 per cent. Consolidated Stock inscribed at the Bank of England, which will rank *pari passu* with the 4 per cent. Consolidated Stock already created and issued, and redeemable at par on Nov. 1 1929. Applications for conversion will be received up to April 30 next, inclusive. Further particulars will be found in our advertising columns.

THE QUEEN'S DRAWING ROOM.

A Drawing Room was held on Thursday by H.R.H. the Princess of Wales on behalf of Her Majesty. The Princess of Wales entered the Throne Room at three o'clock, and with her were the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, other members of the Royal Family, and the great officers of State. Both Royal ladies wore magnificent tiaras of diamonds, and were resplendent with many orders. In the dresses, both in the Throne Room and among the general company, there was a preponderance of mousse, buttercup, and claret colour, the last was blended both with grey and blue. The Duchesse of Roxburghe, Mistress of the Robes, wore a dress of black satin and jet. Daffodils were the flowers of the day, both natural and artificial. There were many posy bouquets of them and of large arums. Very long white gloves were worn, some of them cut at intervals at the top so that a ribbon could be run through them.

Among the most beautiful of the dresses worn (says the *Daily News*) was one with bodice and train of an indescribably soft and lovely shade of velvet, the tint of which resembled closely enough the buds of the lilac blossom before they unclose, with a bloom, like that on a plum, superadded. The train was lined with satin of the palest blue, while the petticoat was composed of brocade, in an eighteenth century design of flowers upon a ground of the softest pearl-coloured satin. This petticoat was slashed up one side, showing folds of the pale blue in the opening thus made. Strings of Oriental pearls were looped over the folds of velvet that trimmed the bodice and the dainty little sleeve. The whole style of this artistic Court dress recalled the Pompadour period, and it would be difficult to find a more beautiful combination of colour than that of the velvet, in its greyish purple, with the pale blue of the lining. Sometimes, in summer sunsets, one sees tints as soft, yet bright, in the small clouds that lie low in the west, and seem to be looking down behind the world after the sinking sun. A very large number of white dresses were worn, the presentations being numerous owing to there being no after-Easter Drawing Rooms last season. Some of the prettiest of the white gowns were draped with folds of the softest crêpes and crêpe-de-chine, and pearl trimmings and fringes were freely used. In one instance, the whole front was a cloudy mass of mingled crêpe and tulle draped in artistic folds, the lower festoons of which were edged with rich fringes of pearl, while the ends of the sashes of crêpe were gathered into tassels, also made of pearls. The train of this dress was of white ottoman, edged with a ruching of crêpe, tied at intervals with bows of white satin. A beautiful Court dress had the front draped with mingled areophane and net, both materials being thickly scattered over with small true-lovers' knots and tiny pendant tassels in crystal beads, which shone and sparkled as though they had been lined with quicksilver, their silvery gleam being heightened by the addition of a small proportion of pearls, their opaque white contrasting with the luminous transparence of the crystal beads. Deep fringes edged these draperies, and over the folds of plain tulle that formed the back of the under-dress flowed the long train of white brocaded satin, edged with a puffing of the same, tied at intervals with knots of satin and clusters of ostrich feathers. Another beautiful dress was composed of exquisite silver brocade in a design evidently reproduced from an old Venetian model, so strikingly bold and yet admirably finished in detail was it. The train was of white poult de soie, a material which has quite returned to popular favour this season. A train of dark prune velvet was worn over a petticoat of warm plum-coloured brocade with design in silver, the ground also being shot with silver. Here and there a few folds of plain satin gave relief to the richness of the brocade, and at the same time increased its handsome effect. A still more beautiful brocade called after Sir Peter Lely, was in a tone of pearl-grey shot with pink, the design being poppies in a pale shade of the latter colour, with foliage slightly touched with gold. On either side of the front long folds of lovely old lace fell between the breadths of the brocade, over gold-coloured satin. Tassels of pearls depended from the edges of the brocade, which might otherwise have had a hard effect. The train was of velvet in a warm tint of golden brown, lined with satin of the same colour. A marvellous brocade, on which the roses looked as though thrown down by a gentle hand, so real did they seem, was pearl-colour as to the ground. The train, in this instance, was of wallflower-coloured velvet, lined with grey satin, and edged underneath with a ruching of the same. Masses of soft lace formed an under-train, an important item in Court dresses, for when the long train reposes upon the wearer's arm the one beneath is very much in evidence. A florally artistic effect was obtained by the use of very soft white tulle on which the sprays of lilac were shaded off to the paler tones of the colour to be seen in the real blossoms. The petals were raised, and each was separate, so that the resemblance to nature was quite perfect. The train was of lilac satin of the subdued shade known as "Ophelia." Down the whole of one side were sprays of the flower set in masses of tulle matching the satin in colour.

Many of the *debutantes* appeared in colours bright and soft, such as are appropriate to girlhood. Two sisters looked charming, one in pale blue, the other in salmon pink. The material of both gowns was tulle. The pink was trimmed with wild white roses, set in their own beautiful leaves. A large panel-shaped garland of these flowers ornamented one side, and a stray blossom or two nestled among the folds of the tulle. A thick cluster was placed on the right shoulder, and two or three groups of roses were scattered along the right side of the train, which was made of ottoman matching the tint of tulle, which was precisely that of the palest pink coral. A ruche of tulle, pleated so closely as to have the effect of plush at a little distance, added still further to the softness which characterised the dress. The sister's was of the new shade of turquoise blue, with train of brocade of the same hue, the design being carnations. The tulle skirt was strewn with white carnations, set in green leaves, and was further trimmed with striped gauze, also pale blue.

Green is too much in favour not to have been represented at the first Drawing Room. In its brightest and freshest aspect, it is now being donned by Nature herself, so that it may be said to be well in season. One of the most successful combinations in this colour was a petticoat of pale eau de Nil, draped with coffee-coloured lace and worn with a train of very dark green velvet, much trimmed with lace. Groups of shaded feathers, also green, trimmed the skirt and bodice. Quite a novel Court train was of white crêpe de Chine over white satin. The petticoat worn with this was one billowy mass of crêpe de Chine, resembling the tossing and curling of little waves as they break in foam on the shore. The simile, however, does not quite hold good, for the snowy whiteness of the dress would compare favourably with the yellowish turmoil of ocean spray. Black and gold appears to have been a favourite combination. One Court dress had the front made entirely of black lace embroidered thickly with gold thread. The train was of rich black satin lined with gold and trimmed with daffodils.

Spring flowers played naturally an important part on the occasion. Daffodils were in much demand; nor were wall-flowers, primroses, or violets forgotten. These were in many instances preferred to hothouse blooms for their inaggressive odour. To be shut up in a carriage for some hours with heavily-scented stephanotis, gardenias, or tuberoses is to make certain the arrival of that headache which is otherwise only among the probabilities, and may be avoided by a discreet use of foot-warmers and the secret of ventilation without draught. White lilac and lilies-of-the-valley were the principal flowers in some of the bouquets; but they soon drooped and faded in the cold air, nurtured as they had been in artificial heat. Snowdrops were adopted by many *débutantes* as their especial flower for the occasion. Small clusters of these flowers were placed in the tulle flounces that covered the skirt, as well as upon the train, where groups of them were tucked cosily into nests of whitest tulle, resembling snow. Small clusters embellished the folds of tulle that trimmed the low bodice, and a necklet of snowdrops gave a finish to the whole. In contrast with all this chill whiteness was a Court train of a lovely warm shade of golden brown, which brightened into sepia tints in the high lights. This was worn over a petticoat of pale blue satin, veiled with some exquisite Brussels lace, the design of which showed up to good effect over the satin. Sprays of velvet flowers served to bring into accord the pale tint of the satin and the warm brown of the brocade.

Ecclesiastical.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Rev. C. W. Barnard, Curate of St. Mary and St. Nicholas, Beverley, to Vicarage of Rowley Regis, Worcestershire. Patron, the Lord Chancellor.

Rev. G. W. Collins, Curate of St. Andrew's, Liverpool, to Vicarage of Fence-in-Pendle, Burnley.

Rev. C. R. L. Engström, Secretary of the Christian Evidence Society, to Rectory of St. Mildred's, Bread-street, Cheapside. Patron, the Lord Chancellor.

Rev. J. Barmer, Vicar of St. Paul's, Nottingham, to be Surrogate in the Diocese of Southwell.

Rev. T. B. E. Ferris, Vicar of St. Matthew's, Nottingham, to be Surrogate in the Diocese of Southwell.

Rev. W. Hall, to Incumbency of the new Church of St. Alba, Liverpool.

Rev. T. Housman, to Vicarage of North Grimston, Yorkshire.

Rev. R. Jennings, to Rectory of Hirnant. Patron, the Bishop of St. Asaph.

Rev. T. Jones, to Vicarage of Llanwrthwt.

Rev. W. Kerr-Smith, London Diocesan Home Missionary in Charge of St. James's Mission District, West Hampstead; to be Clerical Deputation Secretary to the Church of England Sunday-school Institute for the Province of York.

Rev. D. C. Moore, Rector of Albion Mines, to be Rural Dean of Amherst, Nova Scotia.

Rev. M. S. Munroe, Curate of Eccles, to Vicarage of Little Hulton, Bolton-le Moors. Patron, Mrs. Harrison Blair.

Rev. J. T. Penrose, Rector of Gawsworth, Macclesfield, to be Chaplain to the High Sheriff of Cheshire.

Rev. H. W. Plumptre, Rector of Eastwood, to be Surrogate in the Diocese of Southwell.

Rev. E. Price, Minor Canon of Westminster Abbey, to be Priest-in Ordinary to the Queen.

Rev. T. Richards, Rector of Hardwycke, to be Rural Dean of Rothwell, First Deanery.

Rev. W. S. Standen, to be Licensed Preacher in the Diocese of Manchester.

Rev. A. M. Walker, formerly Perpetual Curate of St. Margaret's, Barbadoes, and of Trinidad, West Indies, to Vicarage of North Elling, near Southampton. Patrons, Colonel Burroughes and others.

[The Rev. M. D. Malden, who has been licensed to officiate in the Diocese of Canterbury, is not vicar of Bearsted, but is taking Canon Scarth's duty there for three months.]

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS.—Revs. Stuart Churchill, M.A., to Walcot St. Swithin's with St. Andrew's; Philip Alderton Highmore, B.A., to Felton-common-hill; Michael Davey Lines, to St. Mark's, Lyncombe; John William Morris, B.A., to St. Cuthbert Wells and St. Mary's, Wookey Hole; Walter Perks, M.A., to Christ Church, Weston-super-Mare; Allan Acland Pitman, B.A., to St. John's, Clevedon; John Kipling Quarterman, M.A., to St. Michael's, Bath; Charles Young, to Chewton Mendip-cum-Emborough.

LICENCES TO CURACIES BY THE BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.—Revs. Joshua Davies, to St. Peter's, Hindley; William Thomas Stratford, to St. Andrew's, Southport.

LICENCE TO CURACY BY THE BISHOP OF MANCHESTER.—Rev. James Blackburn Brown, M.A., to the Parish Church of Blackburn.

OBITUARY.

Feb. 14, Madras, the Rev. John Smithwhite, Senior Chaplain of H.M. Indian Service.

Feb. 21, Pozzuoli, Italy, the Rev. Arthur Polehampton, Chaplain, Bombay Presidency, aged 55.

Feb. 25, the Rev. Francis Armstrong Power, Vicar of St. Alban, Berington, Liverpool.

March 3, Waltham Abbey, James Francis, Vicar of Waltham Holycross.

March 3, Clifton House, Norwich, the Rev. George Arthur Selwyn, late Curate of Dedham, aged 28.

March 7, at Epping, the Rev. T. Ridout Tuck, formerly Incumbent of St. John's, Epping, aged 72.

March 8, at 7, Comeragh-road, West Kensington, the Rev. Leonard Henry St. George, B.D., Retired Chaplain of H.M. Forces.

March 8, Northblew Rectory, North Devon, the Rev. Samuel Asher Herbert, Rector of Northblew and Ashbury, aged 67.

March 8, at 14, Marlborough-road, Richmond, the Rev. George Dawson Turner Layton, formerly Rector of Swinbrook, Oxon, aged 65.

March 9, St. Leonard's-on-Sea, the Rev. William Darnell, for forty-one years Vicar of Bamburgh, Northumberland, aged 68.

MISCELLANEOUS CHURCH INTELLIGENCE.

Bishop Bousfield has arrived in England after seven years' absence in his diocese of Pretoria, embracing the whole of the Transvaal, and is now holding meetings and preaching in aid of his mission fund.

It was announced to the Ruridecanal Conference of Repps deanery meeting at Cromer, on Tuesday last, by the Rev. John Dolphin, Rural Dean, that the Bishop of Norwich has declared his intention of resigning his See in the course of next year. The present year's confirmations extend to November 27.

The Dean and Chapter of Canterbury have decided to issue another appeal to Churchmen generally for further subscriptions towards the fund for providing the Cathedral with a new organ. The amount received is about £1,600, and as soon as £2,000 is guaranteed the order will be given for the building of the new instrument.

The Bishop-designate of Lincoln will conduct a "quiet day" for the clergy at the end of this month in connection with the Bishop of Lichfield's Visitation. It is a singular circumstance that of the six clergymen who conducted "quiet days" at the last Lichfield Visitation in 1880 five are Bishops or Bishops-nominate—viz., the Bishops of Newcastle, Ripon, and Bathurst; and the Bishops-nominate of Lincoln and Exeter.

The Bishop of Lichfield has advised his clergy to enforce in a sermon the resolutions of the Upper House of Convocation as to marriage with a deceased wife's sister, or to read them as by his desire after the Nicene Creed.

The will of the late Bishop of London was proved on the 23rd ult., the personal estate being sworn at £73,000, of which amount £43,000 is derived from insurance policies. Beyond an annuity of £20 to his old and valued servant, Hannah Collins, he leaves the whole of his property, real and personal, equally among his children. He also exercises his limited power over the property comprised in his marriage settlement in favour of his unmarried daughter.

The visitation of the Bishop of Bath and Wells will be held at Wells on April 15; Bridgwater, 16; Castle Carey, 17; Frome, 18; Bath, 20; Yatton, 21; Yeovil, 22; Crewkerne, 23; Taunton, 24; and Dunster, 25.

The will of the Rev. Edward James Justinian George Elwards, late Prebendary of Lichfield and vicar of Trentham, has been proved, the personalty being sworn at £39,000.

A second service to commemorate the seven hundredth anniversary of the consecration of the Temple Church by Heraclius, Patriarch of Jerusalem, was held on Sunday. A large congregation, including many members of the societies of the Middle and Inner Temple, was present. The prayers were read by the Rev. Alfred Ainger; the choral part of the service was rendered by the choir, under the direction of Dr. E. J. Hopkins, the organist. The anthem performed was "Hear my Prayer," Mendelssohn. The Very Rev. Dean Vaughan, Master of the Temple, preached, taking his text from Psalm xc. 1, "Lord, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations."

The Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's met in their Chapter House on Monday for the purpose of electing a successor to the late Bishop Jackson. Most of the members of what is called the "Greater Chapter" were present, including the Dean of St. Paul's, Canon Gregory, Canon Liddon, Canon Scott-Holland, the Archdeacon of London (Dr. Gifford), and the following prebendaries:—D. Wilson, the Bishop of Bedford, Rowe, Currey, Leather, Jones, Stock, Ottey, Hodson, Webb, Whittington, Baker, A. Wilson, Humphry, Tucker, D. Moore, Reynolds, and M'Dowall. The proceedings of the election were as follows. The Dean and Chapter being assembled (the Cathedral bell having been first rung), the verger (Mr. R. R. Green) appeared, and produced the original citatory mandate, with a certificate of the service thereof endorsed on it. The Chapter Clerk (Mr. J. B. Lee) next read, by the order of the Chapter, Her Majesty's Letters Patent and Letters Recommendatory. The verger then cited the canons and prebendaries at the open door of the Chapter-room to appear and proceed with the election. Some other legal documents of a formal character were also read. Thereupon the Dean, as president of the Chapter, publicly declared that the chapter was formed, and pointed out that there were three canonical ways of election—viz., by acclamation, scrutiny, and compromise. The Chapter selected the vote by scrutiny, and the suffrages of those present were accordingly taken. They were unanimous in favour of the Right Rev. Frederick Temple, D.D., now Bishop of Exeter. The Dean and Chapter having accepted the election and the person elected, the Dean was empowered to publish, declare, and make known to the clergy and people the result of the election; and the Chapter Clerk was also directed to certify the said election to Dr. Temple, with request of his consent. The proceedings then terminated. The Dean subsequently published a notice of the election on the door of the Chapter-house and on the doors of the Cathedral.

In his *Diocesan Magazine* the Bishop of Rochester says:—"It is with sincere distress that the Bishop has to announce his compelled absence from home, just at the time when the confirmations are on, and when his clergy and laity are constantly wanting his counsel and aid. He does not apologise for being ill, nor has his heart one thought of complaint in it; nor will any one who knows him fail to understand how simply he feels it to be the tender love of God. His friends will be glad to know that there is no injury to any vital organ. It is simply the result of a serious strain of the nervous system, revealing itself all over the frame with the unrelentingness of mother nature, the most unforgiving, and so, perhaps, the most merciful, towards any who with the best intentions transgress her laws. Eight weeks seemed long enough to try the possibility of directing the diocesan work from home. It has become clear that bronchial tubes, with other disarrangements, would not heal in February, under the pure but keen air of a house 550ft. above the sea; and the daily letters just exhausted the recuperative force that ought to have been accumulating for real convalescence." Archdeacon Fisher will act as Commissary during the Bishop's absence. All letters should be addressed to 28, Great George-street, Westminster.

The clergy of North Kineton Deanery, which includes most of the parishes in South Warwickshire, have issued a strong protest against horse-racing. The protest is signed by about twenty clergymen, who state that in their opinion horse-racing and steeplechases at as present conducted in this country are demoralising in their tendency and degrading in their influence. As ministers of the Gospel of Christ,

they feel it their bounden duty to protest against them.

Considerable discussion having arisen in the country on Mr. Gladstone's reply to an Accrington correspondent that the clergy are not State paid, the Rev. Charles Williams, Baptist minister, Accrington, wrote to the Prime Minister asking whether he still holds, as he did in 1869, that Parliament has a right to appropriate tithes to other uses than the support of the clergy, and has received the following letter dated March 5:—"Sir,—I am desired by Mr. Gladstone to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st ult., and to inform you that his general views as to the powers of the State in regard to Church and corporate property are to be found recorded in the debates on the Irish Church in 1864, 1868, and 1869, and may be inferred from his conduct in regard to the Irish Church. In answering his previous Accrington correspondent he confined himself to giving a reply to a definite question, and abstained from going beyond the particular inquiry addressed to him.—I am, Sir, your obedient servant, H. W. Primrose." In reply to a resolution of the committee of the London and Counties Liberal Union on the subject of the provisions of the Redistribution Bill with regard to the qualification to vote obtained by the occupation of different premises in succession, Mr. Gladstone says that, "although he cannot now express an opinion upon the point, he will take care that the representation of the committee receives due consideration at the hands of the Government."

At a meeting of the standing committee of the National Society on Wednesday the report for 1884 of the Board for Examining Pupil-Teachers in Religious Knowledge was presented by Lord Colchester. At a meeting of the Board on November 11 the following alterations were agreed upon in reference to the acting-teachers' examination:—

(*a*) That the age at which candidates may be examined be lowered to eighteen.

(*b*) That the examination should last for four hours instead of three hours.

(*c*) That re-examination for attaining a higher class be allowed without limit until further notice.

(*d*) That the syllabus for the year next to the current year be published in advance, so that the syllabus should always contain the subjects for the current year and the next year.

The number of candidates for admission was at the masters' colleges 1,168 and at the mistresses' colleges 1,362, as compared with 1,257 and 1,650 in 1883. The diminished numbers may be accounted for in two ways—(1) by the actual diminution of pupil-teachers throughout the kingdom; (2) by the fact that those only who were seeking admission at the colleges were examined there, the other candidates being examined at the "extra centres" lately established by the Education Department.

The Bishop of Sydney writes to the *Guardian* as follows:—"I venture to ask permission to appeal through you for recruits for our Church work here. We want two young men in full orders to be attached as minor canons to our Cathedral, but to be ready for Mission work in the poorer quarters of the city which surround it, and also for occasional duty in any part of the diocese to which they may be sent from time to time, to supply sudden vacancies or relieve our overburdened parochial clergy. They must be men who can preach earnestly and effectively, ready to throw their hearts into the work, in which they can do us invaluable service, and fit to be promoted to independent charges in due course. We can give them salary abundantly sufficient for unmarried men, and promise them work of much interest and importance. All particulars will be given by the Rev. G. W. Daniell, Old College, Dulwich, London, S.E. I hope he will be able to send me two good men for the growing work of the Church here."

The Goldsmiths' Company have contributed £50 to the funds of the National Society.

The Bishop of Truro was the preacher on Sunday at the noon service at the Chapel Royal, St. James's, and the demand for tickets was unprecedented, while numbers drove down in the vain hope of obtaining admission. The service was taken by the Sub-Dean and Canon Troutbeck, and the Bishop for three-quarters of an hour riveted the attention of the congregation while in impassioned language he fearlessly denounced the vices and shortcomings of the upper classes. The text was Psalms iv. 4, "Commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still." The Bishop said that there never was a greater need for a period of retirement than in the busy world of the nineteenth century. The destinies of England would be such as her children made them, and if we would rise to our responsibilities we must realise the necessity of standing aside from the busy world and communing with God. Such periods of retirement might be conveniently considered under three heads—(*a*) the daily private prayer and reading of Holy Scripture; (*b*) the weekly rest of the Lord's Day, the opportunities of which were so much neglected, especially by the upper classes; and (*c*) the annual retirement of Lent, on the proper uses of which the Bishop spoke in detail and with great plainness of speech. Among the congregation were the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone, Sir Stafford and Lady Northcote, the Marquis of Hartington, Viscount Sydney, the Earl and Countess of Dudley, the Marquis of Ailesbury, Lord Suffield, Lady Castletown, Lady Edwards, the Baroness Burdett-Coutts and Mr. Coutts, Lord Keane, Sir Spencer Ponsonby Fane, Mr. C. Sykes, M.P., &c.

The death is announced of the Rev. Robert Halley, M.A. The deceased was born in 1827 at Highbury College, of which his father, the late Dr. Halley, was Principal. Mr. Halley graduated with honours at London University, and in 1848 was awarded the Divinity Scholarship founded by Dr. Williams's trustees. He held for some time the professorship of General Literature, Mathematics, and Logic at Lancashire College, resigning these appointments on being elected Principal of the Doveton Institution, and Protestant College, Madras. Returning from India in consequence of his wife's impaired health, Mr. Halley was appointed Principal of the Tettenhall Independent College, Wolverhampton. This appointment he held until 1873, since which year he has been settled at Arundel. Deceased was the author of a short biography of his father, &c.

The Central Council of Diocesan Conferences will meet at the National Society's House, Westminster, on Tuesday and Wednesday next; Mr. Cecil Raikes, M.P., in the chair. Amongst other routine business, Mr. W. E. Hubbard, Mr. R. H. Paget, M.P., Chancellor Espin, Archdeacon Richardson, and Archdeacon Sumner will retire from the executive committee, but offer themselves for re-election. One other lay member of the executive committee has to be appointed. The agenda for Tuesday contain the following:—

Church Defence.—That the following subject is respectfully suggested as suitable for discussion at Diocesan Conferences:—"The duty of Churchmen at the present time, independently of politics, in view of the persistent efforts to make the disestablishment and disendowment of the Church of England a political question. (To be proposed by Mr. Sydney Gedge and Chancellor Espin.)

Ecclesiastical Dilapidations.—That the present system of assessing ecclesiastical dilapidations is one urgently needing revision and amendment, the operation of the existing Act being attended with injustice. (Debate to be resumed by the Rev. J. Mitchell.)

For Wednesday the subject of "Social Purity" is to be brought forward by the Bishop of Southwell, and the following resolution to be moved by Canon Feilden, and supported by Mr. Stephen Bourne, an invited speaker:—

That in view of present social conditions it is most desirable that there should be a combined effort of Churchmen for promoting purity, whether by a more general support of the Church of England Purity Society or other similar organisation.

Infidelity.—That the present progress of open and avowed infidelity in this country, while it should not give rise to undue alarm, renders it incumbent on Churchmen to unite heartily in discovering and employing the most effectual means for arresting it. (To be proposed by the Rev. Dr. Thornton.)

Religion and Science.—That the duty of the Church with reference to the present controversies is a suitable subject for consideration in Diocesan Conferences. (The Dean of Lichfield.)

The New English church at Leipzig, which is fast approaching completion, will fulfil a want which has been long felt by the many English residents and students in Leipzig. Hitherto the services have been conducted in a sort of extemporised room, which could only accommodate a small portion of those who desired to attend. When we say that the number of English and American students at the Conservatoire alone exceeds 150 and is yearly increasing, some idea may be formed of the necessity of a new and worthy place of worship. On Sunday last a grand concert was given in the Neue Gewandhaus, which was filled to its utmost capacity. The soloists were Miss Alice Menzies, from London (pianoforte) and Herr Ottokar Novaçek, from Temesvar (violin). The former played the "Etudes Symphoniques," of R. Schumann, and the latter a concerto in A minor, of Bach. Both were brilliant performances, our young English pianiste having the honour of being twice recalled to the platform. The concert was in aid of the new English Church, the funds of which will doubtless be largely augmented thereby.

The restoration of the chancel of Bishop-Stortford Church is approaching completion, under the direction of Mr. Blomfield. The large east window, from the studio of Mr. Taylor, of Berners-street, is erected in readiness for the reopening, and contains five subjects, in the main lights, from the life of our Lord, and below them five subjects from the infancy of the Saviour. The window is the gift of the Rev. C. A. Belli, precentor of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Canon Liddon writes to our contemporary the *Guardian*:—

"In the Memoirs of the Rev. Mark Pattison, Rector of Lincoln College, Oxford, just published, Mr. Pattison states that on one occasion he went to confession to Dr. Pusey. He then proceeds:—

"Years afterwards it came to my knowledge that Pusey had told a fact about myself, which he got from me on that occasion, to a friend of his, who employed it to annoy me. (p. 189.)

"It would be difficult to bring a graver charge against any man than is conveyed in these words. Yet the charge is brought in such a manner as to make thorough examination of its justice impossible. When the dead accuse the dead after this fashion, what are the living to do?

"Mr. Pattison would not seem to have reflected that the 'fact,' whatever it was, to which he refers, may have been known to other persons than himself, or may even have been mentioned by himself to other persons, or to Dr. Pusey, in conversation, and quite independently of his confession to Dr. Pusey.

"Dr. Pusey has often talked to me about the late Rector of Lincoln, as about others who were related, in whatever way, to the history of the Oxford movement. Dr. Pusey, of course, could not but deeply regret Mr. Pattison's later attitude towards religious questions; but I cannot recall his ever using an expression that was not more tender than regretful. That Mr. Pattison ever went to confession to Dr. Pusey I first learnt, two days ago, from Mr. Pattison's Memoirs. No hint from Dr. Pusey ever suggested to my mind anything of the sort. On such subjects, when speaking to others, Dr. Pusey was invariably and strictly on his guard against the slightest betrayal of the confidence which was reposed in him.

"For thirty-six years of his life I knew Dr. Pusey more or less intimately. And since his death I have read through a considerable portion of the vast correspondence which he carried on with persons of almost every condition in life. And I desire to be allowed to record my deliberate conviction that nothing is, morally, more impossible than that Dr. Pusey could ever have been guilty of the crime which is ascribed to him in the Memoirs of Mr. Pattison.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE HUMAN SPECIES.—II.

II.—The Mongolian type.

A. The *Eskimo* are probably a branch of the North Asiatic Mongols, who, hemmed in both by Polar ice and by hostile tribes of American Indians, have developed strongly-expressed modifications of the character seen in their Asiatic relations. Every distinctly Japanese characteristic is seen in the Eskimo in an exaggerated degree, so they are doubtless derived from the same stock. These special characteristics gradually increase from west to east, and are seen in their greatest perfection in the Greenlanders. The remains of the early inhabitants of Europe present no structural affinities to the Eskimo, although similar external conditions may have led them to adopt similar modes of life. The Eskimo are perhaps the most specialised race of any in existence, and it is probable that they are of comparatively late origin, and not contemporaries with the men whose rude flint tools are found in our drifts.

B. The typical *Mongolians* are found in Northern and Central Asia. They are conveniently divided into the Northern and the Southern groups.

a. The *Mongolo-Altaic* group are united by affinities of language. From the great central plateau of Asia they have at various times issued westwards and penetrated almost to the heart of Europe. The Finns, the Magyars, and the Turks are their descendants, but they have for so many generations intermingled with other peoples, that their original physical characters have been completely modified. Even the Lapps, diminutive nomads supposed to be of Mongolian descent, show little of the special attributes of that branch. The Japanese are said by their language to be allied rather to this than the following branch.

b. The Southern Mongolian group, divided from the former chiefly by language and habits of life, includes the greater part of the population of China, Thibet, Burmah, and Siam.

C. To the *Malay* branch an easy transition can be traced from the most characteristic members of the type.

D. The brown *Polynesians*, Malayo-Polynesians, Maories, Sawaioris, or Kanakas, as they have been variously called, seen in their greatest purity in the Samoan, Tongan, and Eastern Polynesian islands, are still more modified, and possess less of the characteristic Mongolian features. The Melanesian element throughout the Pacific must never be forgotten, being in many respects so opposite to the Mongolian, that it would materially alter the characters, especially, of the hair and beard. The mixture is physically a fine one, and in some proportions produces a combination, as in the Maories, in all definable characters approaching quite as near, or nearer, to the Caucasian type than to either of the stocks from which it may be presumably derived. This resemblance has led some writers to infer a real extension of the Caucasian element at some very early period into the Pacific islands. This plausible theory rests on little proof, as the combination of Mongolo-Malayan and Melanesian characters would probably account for all the modifications observed among them.

E. The native population of *America*, excluding the Eskimo, present a remarkable similarity of essential characters, with much diversity of detail.

The construction of their languages, of which as many as twelve hundred have been distinguished, is said to point to unity of origin, as they are nearly all constructed on the grammatical principle of *polysynthesis*. Their mental characteristics have much that is in common; and the very different stages of culture to which they had attained at the time of the conquest (as that of the Incas and Aztecs, and that of the hunting or fishing tribes of the north and south) quoted as evidence of diversities of race, were not greater than those between different nations of Europe, as Gauls and Germans on the one hand, and Greeks and Romans on the other, in the time of Julius Cæsar. The best argument that can be used for the unity of the American race is the great difficulty of forming any natural divisions founded upon physical characters. The character of the hair throughout the whole continent is always straight and lank, long and abundant on the scalp, but sparse elsewhere. The colour of the skin is practically uniform, notwithstanding enormous differences of climate. In the features and cranium certain special modifications appear, but the same forms appear at widely-separated parts of the continent. Skulls from Vancouver's Island, Peru, and Patagonia have been found almost undistinguishable from one another.

Naturalists who admit but four primary types have always hesitated between placing the Americans with the Mongolian races, or elevating them to primary rank. Cuvier leaves it an open question. Although in Americans the special form of the nasal bones, characteristic high bridge of the nose, well-developed superciliary ridge and retreating forehead, distinguish them from the Asiatic Mongol type; yet in other respects they resemble them so much that Mr. Flower is inclined to include them as aberrant members of the Mongolian group.

It is quite as likely that the people of Asia may have been derived from America as the reverse. Such visits as those of the early Norsemen to the coasts of Greenland, Labrador, and Nova Scotia, or the possible accidental stranding of a canoe containing survivors of a voyage across the Pacific or the Atlantic, can have had no appreciable effect upon the characteristics of the people. The special characters of the Americans can hardly be the effects of crossing.

III. The Caucasian, or white division, according to Mr. Flower's view, includes the two groups called Xanthochroi and Melanochroi, which, differing in colour of eyes and hair, agree so closely in other anatomical characters that it seems preferable to consider them as modifications of one great type.

They are intimately blended throughout the region they inhabit; and it is to this rapid extension that the great changes now taking place in the ethnology of the world are mainly due.

A. The *Xanthochroi* or *blonde* type, with fair hair, eyes, and complexion, chiefly inhabit Northern Europe—Scandinavia, Scotland, and North Germany—but much mixed with the next group, they extend as far as Northern Africa and Afghanistan. Their mixture with Mongoloid people in North Europe has given rise to the Lapps and Finns.

B. The *Melanochroi*, with black hair and eyes, and skin of almost all shades from white to black, comprise the great majority of the inhabitants of southern Africa and south-west Asia, and consist mainly of the Aryan, Semitic, and Hamitic families. The Dravidians of India, and probably the Ainos of Japan and Maoutze of China, also belong to this race, which may have contributed something to the mixed character of some tribes of Indo-China and the Polynesian islands, and, as before said, given at least the characters of the hair, to the otherwise Negroid inhabitants of Australia. In Southern India they are probably mixed with a negrito element, and in Africa numerous cross races between them and the negroes have sprung up. The ancient Egyptians were nearly pure Melanochroi, though often showing in their features traces of their frequent intermarriage with their Ethiopian neighbours. The Copts and fellahs of modern Egypt are their little-changed descendants.

In its broad outlines this scheme scarcely differs from that proposed by Cuvier nearly sixty years ago, and the result of the enormous increase of our knowledge during that time should have caused such little change, is the best testimony to its being a truthful representation of the facts.

EDUCATIONAL.

Dr. Sylvanus P. Thompson, of University College, Bristol, has been appointed Principal and Professor of Physics at the Finsbury Technical College. The duties of Principal have hitherto been discharged by Mr. Philip Magnus, the Director and Secretary of the Institute, who temporarily undertook them pending the complete organisation of the College.

The class lists of the Cambridge local examinations held last December have been issued so far as the candidates examined in England are concerned. Out of 6,159 junior candidates, boys and girls, 367 obtain a first class, 466 a second, 767 a third, and 2,766 merely satisfying the examiners. Of 1,613 senior candidates thirty-nine obtain a first class, 126 a second, 158 a third, and 683 satisfy the examiners. The proportion of failures is considerably below the average.

We are requested to state that early in the month of May the Governors of Harrow School will proceed to an election to fill up the vacancy in the headmastership caused by the retirement of Dr. Butler, after the close of the ensuing summer term. Applications should be sent in not later than April 2, to Mr. C. W. Young, 12, Essex-street, Strand, to whom any inquiries should be addressed. Each application should be accompanied by a letter from the candidate himself, together with any references or testimonials which he may think fit to send in. In no case should the number of testimonials exceed six.

Miss Elizabeth Welsh has been appointed headmistress of Girton College, Cambridge,. Miss Welsh was for some time one of the assistant mistresses of the Manchester High School for Girls, which she she left eight years ago to become classical tutor at Girton. Since October last she has filled the post of acting headmistress of the college, Miss Welsh is a former student of Girton College, and passed her final examination with classical honours in 1875.

A return has been issued showing the expenditure from the grant for public education in England and Wales in the year 1884 upon annual grants to Elementary schools, and the results of the inspection of such schools during the year ended August 31, 1884. The total grant for last year was £3,110,912 8s., an increase of £264,885 3s. 7d. Nearly the whole of this increase appears in the annual grants for day scholars, an item which is set down at £2,770,855 16s. 5d., an increase of £260,234 13s. 11d. on 1883. Grants to evening scholars amounted to £11,515 19s. 3d., rather less than the year before. The annual grants to training colleges, £113,541 19s. 8d., and expenses of administration £205,016 6s. 4d., are the chief heads which make up the balance, and both show an increase. A table is given in which the expenditure is classified according to the denomination of the recipients. Church of England schools stand at the head, with grants of £1,418,242 6s. 9d., an increase of £106,333 10s. 4d.; Roman Catholic schools received £150,395 10s. 7d., an increase of £15,502 12s. 5d.; and Wesleyan schools, £120,807 1s. 8d., more by £6,135 18s. 11d., than in 1883. These sums were granted to strictly denominational schools. Two classes of undenominational schools with large grants are given—Board schools, £975,918 13s. 2d., an increase of £117,899 1s. 2d., and British, undenominational, and other schools, £237,112 3s. 8d. It may be noticed that from 1839 to the end of last year the sum of £39,015,288 16s. 6d. has been spent on education in England and Wales. A similar return, issued for Scotland, shows that the whole grant for last year was £473,363 15s. 6d., an increase of £14,249 11s. 9d. over 1883. The annual grants to day scholars were £400,228 8s. 5d., and the expenses of administration £33,579 0s. 6d. That is, while the expenses of administration in England and Wales are nearly 6·6 per cent., in Scotland they are more than 7 per cent. of the whole grant.

Mr. Goschen, M.P., presiding on Saturday evening at the annual meeting of the London Society for the Extension of University Teaching, congratulated that body upon its success, but maintained that the public support which it received was totally inadequate to its objects. Congratulating his hearers on the fact that the education authorities had consented to recognise the society's certificates as sufficient substitutes for their own, he remarked that this would be an advantage to those who were preparing for a professional life. At the same time, professional advantage was not the aim of the society. Their object was to supply men and women with fresh sources of mental amusement as well as mental knowledge. Moreover, they did not believe that it was necessary to lower the standard of culture when dealing with the masses. They wished to see all classes of the community attending their lectures, believing that there was among them all a community of intellectual interests and tastes.

The Marquis of Ripon on Tuesday visited Huddersfield, which town he formerly represented, to preside at the inaugural meeting of the New Technical School and Mechanics' Institute, which has been erected at a cost of £20,000, and has 1,400 pupils. The boys attending Huddersfield College, a middle-class school, at which the Marquis for many years past annually gave a medal for Latin and Greek, presented him with an illuminated address. In reply the Marquis spoke to the boys upon their educational advantages. At the inaugural meeting of the Technical School held in the Town Hall in the evening, at which there were nearly three thousand persons present, the Marquis of Ripon presided. He referred to foreign competition, and hoped we should never try to meet it by the ruinous expedient of protection. We could do much to conquer our difficulties by extended education. He was glad that the inhabitants of Bombay had decided to connect his name with a Technical School. As to our own institutions, as they became more democratic, so education must become democratic by extending educational training, which until lately was too exclusively available to the wealthy classes alone.

THE COURT.

The Queen, Princess Beatrice, Prince Henry of Battenberg, and the members of Her Majesty's household, attended Divine service in the private chapel of Windsor Castle on Sunday morning. The Very Rev. Randall Davidson, Dean of Windsor, officiated.

The Queen and Princess Beatrice are expected to leave Windsor Castle on Monday evening, the 30th inst., for the Continent. Her Majesty and Princess Beatrice will, it is believed, remain about three weeks at Aix-les-Bains, and then return to Windsor Castle.

The Prince of Wales, wearing the Academic costume of a doctor of laws, accompanied by Princes Albert Victor and George, attended Divine service on Sunday morning, at Trinity Chapel, Cambridge, and the Royal party also attended King's College Chapel in the afternoon.

Tuesday was the twenty-second anniversary of the marriage of the Prince of Wales with Princess Alexandra of Denmark. In London from an early hour, and at intervals during the day, the bells of several of the West-end churches rang out merry peals. In the evening illuminations were displayed at some of the West-end club houses. At Windsor the bells of St. George's Chapel, the Castle, and St. John's Church rang merrily, and at noon royal salutes were fired in the Long Walk and Fort Belvedere, Virginia Water. The Prince and Princess of Wales gave a dinner in the evening.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Canon Malcolm M'Coll has accepted the office of treasurer of the Armenian Educational Aid Association, of which the Dean of St. Paul's is president, and Professor Bryce, M.P., chairman.

Mr. Edmund Yates was on Tuesday released from Holloway Prison under the warrant of the Home Secretary. The medical inspector of the Home-office, at Sir William Harcourt's desire, had seen Mr. Yates twice within an interval of ten days, and had reported very seriously on his condition. Soon after his release Mr. Yates left for the Continent.

The opposition to the practice of vivisection in Oxford University resulted on Tuesday in an appeal to members in full convocation to refuse the proposed annual grant of £500 "for the expenditure of the physiological department, including the salary of the Demonstrator of Physiology." After speeches by Dean Liddell, Sir William Anson, Sir Henry Acland, Professor Dicey, and Mr. Robertson, of London University, in favour of the proposal, and of the Bishop of Oxford, Canon Liddon, and Professor Freeman against it, the vote in favour of the grant was carried by a majority of 168, there being 412 placets and 244 non-placets.

The Japanese Consulate in London, acting under official instructions, is seeking information concerning English school books suitable for use in the primary schools of Japan.

The death is announced from New York of Mr. Porter C. Bliss. The deceased was well known as a journalist, traveller, scholar, and diplomatist. It is stated that his death was remotely due to the injuries inflicted upon him by Lopez, Dictator of Paraguay, who tortured Mr. Bliss to extract State secrets from him while he was Secretary of Legation under Minister Washburn. Mr. Bliss was also attached to the diplomatic service of the United States in Mexico, Brazil, and the Argentine Republic.

A meeting of the Free Church Presbytery of Edinburgh was held on Wednesday to consider a "libel" against the Rev. Dr. Stuart Muir, of Trinity Church, Leith. The libel consisted of four counts. The first charged Dr. Muir with teaching the doctrine of baptismal regeneration. The second count charged him with worshipping God before a crucifix, and sanctioning the sale of his portrait in the attitude of prayer. The third count charged him with the utterance of statements and the performance of acts all indicating an approval of Popish doctrines and practices, more particularly the following:—Speaking of the Church of Rome as "the great Western Church;" saying that his sympathies were much more with the prayer-book of the holy martyr, Archbishop Laud, than with the service of his own Church; crossing himself; with officiating at the celebration of Divine service in an Episcopalian church where incense was burned and the altar illuminated with numerous candles; with addressing the Virgin Mary in public prayer; bending the knee in nightly prayer before a representation of Christ upon the cross; praying for the dead; and the like. The fourth charges him in detail with foolish and irreverent behaviour in publishing in the newspapers a letter to a minister treating sacred things irreverently. The libel was held to be relevant, and it was agreed to serve it upon Dr. Muir, whose ministerial function will accordingly be suspended. Dr. Muir protested against the decision of the Presbytery, and appealed to the Synod.

The Council of the Harleian Society have just issued to the members the first volume of the christenings at St. James's, Clerkenwell, from 1551 to 1700, and the continuation up to 1754 will form Vol. II., and is nearly all in the press. The "Visitations of Bedfordshire" in 1566, 1582, and 1634, are are now being issued to members, and that of "Dorsetshire" in 1623 is also nearly completed. It is proposed to print the weddings which have taken place at St. George's, Hanover-square, from the commencement of the registers, and G. Leveson Gower, Esq., F.S.A., will edit the volume. The registers of Christ Church, Newgate-street, are transcribed and will shortly be put in the press.

CAUTION.—WATER FILTRATION.—The public are cautioned, before purchasing Filters, to see that what they buy are really water purifiers, and not mere strainers, which latter, although rendering water bright, do not remove the organic and mineral impurities. In the instructions to the local boards of health by order of the Privy Council it has been distinctly stated that the old sponge filters are of no avail for purifying water. These filters are constantly advertised as a new patent, whereas the ONLY FILTERS, containing nothing but the purest ANIMAL CHARCOAL, are those supplied by the LONDON AND GENERAL WATER-PURIFYING COMPANY (Limited), 157, Strand (four doors from Somerset House), W.C.—Read "Water: its Impurities and Purification." Price 6d.

The *St. James's Gazette* says:—"It appears to us that those who arranged the celebration of the 700th anniversary of the consecration of the Temple have been under some misapprehension, and have anticipated the real 700th anniversary by a twelvemonth. No doubt it is the case that the round part of the edifice was consecrated in the early part of March, 1185, but it does not follow that March, 1885, is exactly 700 years distant from the earlier date. The fact is that some one has forgotten that in 1185 and for centuries later the calendar year ended on March 25, and not on December 31, and that if the old system had been maintained up to the present date the alleged 700th anniversary of last Sunday would have been celebrated in the year 1884. Hence it appears that Dr. Vaughan was really speaking of the 699th anniversary, and not of the 700th. But we hope this will in no way detract from the interest attaching to the proceedings."

Lady John Manners has contributed to the current number of the *Queen* an excellent article on the establishment of libraries for the working classes, which every one who has the interest of the people at heart should read and consider. She says:—"I have observed that there exists a considerable amount of book-hunger among the people, and I have wondered if it would not extend the usefulness of reading-rooms if inexpensive books could be bought from them by the poor, and whether colporteurs might not be more generally employed. I am aware that these ideas would require much developing before they could be carried out, but so much time and thought are bestowed now on schemes for the diffusion of knowledge that I throw out the suggestion." There can be no doubt that the most effectual mode of elevating the working classes and of fitting them for the position of voters is to encourage them to devote a portion of such time as they have at their own disposal to account by reading. Lady John Manners gives interesting details of work which has been well done in this direction, and the examples which she quotes are well worthy of imitation.

The Factory Acts have been suspended at the Royal Arsenal, and orders given to employ the lads as well as the men upon overtime. Virtually the Government works are exempt from the Factory Acts and all other statutes of the kind; but it has always been the practice to act under the same conditions in Government factories as are imposed by the Legislature upon private establishments, and the present is the first occasion upon which this rule has been departed from in the case of the boys. Their hours of work are, however, only extended from six till eight in the evening, and they are not to labour on Saturday afternoons and Sundays, as the men have had to do for some weeks past. Thousands of the men have been engaged daily from 6 a.m. till 10 p.m., Sundays included, and some of them are breaking down under the strain. It is believed, however, that the period of pressure will not be protracted.

Under the title of *The Cemeteries Bill; its Objec and Provisions*, the Liberation Society has just issued a pamphlet containing a statement of the facts which render the Bill necessary; the opinions of Bishops and other Churchmen as to consecration and dual chapels; and the methods pursued by various burial authorities in dealing with the difficulties created by the present state of the law. We have reason to believe that the promised Government Bill is likely to be brought in before the Session is much further advanced, and that it will aim at effecting substantially the same object as the Cemeteries Bill.

Lord Rosebery unveiled on Saturday afternoon the national monumental bust of the poet Burns in the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey. Before the formal ceremony, a number of ladies and gentlemen assembled in the old dining-hall of the abbey, now used by the boys of Westminster School as a dining room. The Dean of Westminster presided. Mr. Wilson (chairman of the Memorial Committee) said that the bust had been subscribed for with the shillings and pence of the admirers of the poet in Switzerland, Bengal, New Zealand, Nova Scotia, America, England, and Ireland, and in almost every town in Scotland. The committee had selected as the artist Sir John Steele, a veteran member of the Royal Scottish Academy, who had produced a likeness of the poet based on the portrait of Burns by Nasmyth. Lord Rosebery then delivered a short address, in which he thanked the Dean for the readiness with which he admitted the bust into Westminster Abbey. The Dean having replied, the meeting proceeded to Poets' Corner, where Lord Rosebery unveiled the bust.

With reference to Mr. Shuttleworth's recent Socialistic lecture at Oxford, in which he advocated "a heavy tax on land, with a view of restoring the possession thereof to the people," Mr. J. G. Cheshire writes from Hitchin to a contemporary:—"He shall see the first part of his proposition in full action. At a certain rectory in Cambridgeshire the glebe consists of 300 acres; of this, sixty acres is well let; of the remaining 240 (a separate farm) about thirty are let at £1 an acre; on these 240 acres, let or unlet, a land-tax of £20 has to be paid; the result, therefore, to the landed proprietor (the rector) is that he gets £10 a year from this farm, and, owing to peculiar circumstances, is never likely to get more. Now I will ask Mr. Shuttleworth two questions:—1. Is he aware that landed proprietors, as such, at present—owing to the low price of corn and the general depression—are in many cases simply the possessors of a valueless incubus, and that the only reason some of them prosper is that they also happen to be the owners of houses, shops, mills, &c., which nearly always pay? A large landowner the other day told me that he had eight farms on his hands, and, of course, there might be a heavy land-tax to pay on these, unless redeemed. 2. Is it fair or just that Mr. Shuttleworth (whose rectorial tithe is, I imagine, secured to him from its being paid on City land, always covered with valuable houses) should make a proposition which, if carried out, would go far towards sending into the Bankruptcy Court many of his brethren beneficed in the country? There are surely many of them quite poor enough already with diminished tithes and unoccupied glebes. . . . What, by the way, does he mean by the word 'restore' in this connection? It is historically incorrect, and therefore if the idea it suggests be carried out, it will nvolve a breach of the Eighth Commandment."

METROPOLITAN FREE HOSPITAL.—The aggregate number of patients relieved during the week ending March 7 was—medical 968, surgical 565; total 1,533, of which 661 were new cases.

A general meeting of the Princess of Wales's branch of the National Aid Society was held on Wednesday, at Lansdown House, at the request of the Princess, who was present. The Duchess of Buccleuch presided. Lady Rosebery (treasurer) reported that this branch of the society had sent a consignment of goods by the steamer *Ganges* and another supply by the steamer *Navarino*. In the latter ship four nurses were despatched to Suez. The Princess of Wales had presented to the society a Danish wooden hospital-hut, which would at once be forwarded to Souakim. Affiliated sub-committees were being rapidly formed in many places in Great Britain and Ireland. The following resolutions were passed:—"To send out a Danish wooden house to serve as a club for the use of the troops on the Nile, the club to be suitably furnished and supplied with a library and games." It was also decided to supply Sir Allen Young's hospital-yacht, the *Stella*, at Souakim, with a library and a variety of small comforts.

The Probate and Divorce Court has been occupied nearly a week with a petition from the Earl of Durham to have his marriage declared null and void on the ground that at the time of its celebration his wife was of unsound mind. That she is so at present is unquestioned; but her relatives deny that she was so at the time of the marriage on the 28th October, 1882. The lady, who was one of the noted beauties of the period, is a daughter of the late Mr. Milner, and a granddaughter of the Archbishop of Armagh. She is described by her relatives as having been of a reserved nature, but cheerful enough when alone with them. It is specially to be remarked that shortly before her engagement with Lord Durham she had looked with favour on another man's affection for her; but her contemplated engagement with him was disapproved by her family on account of his want of means. Her sister, the Hon. Mrs. Gerard, did much to bring about an engagement with Lord Durham, which actually took place on the 19th of August, 1882, while they were on a visit to Lady Castlereagh at Cliffe. A few months after the marriage Lord Durham consulted some doctors as to the state of his wife's health, and after a time it was found that she was insane. He thereupon, if not previously, attributed to mental disorder all the peculiarities which she had manifested before and after the marriage. Among these were her excessive taciturnity, an alleged attempt to commit suicide on one occasion when she burnt herself, her shrinking from Lord Durham on the occasion of her marriage and afterwards, her impassiveness when presents were made to her or a reception given in her honour at Lambton Castle, her want of interest in most things, &c. In July, 1883, she endeavoured to throw herself out of a window at her aunt's house, and now she is in an asylum, and unquestionably has delusions and is violent. In delivering judgment on Tuesday, Sir James Hannen, after minutely reviewing the evidence, said he had come to the conclusion that the petitioner had failed to establish that the respondent exhibited any symptoms of insanity down to the time of the marriage. He believed that Miss Milner's previously-known attachment for Lord Burghersh continued, and that she had done Lord Durham a great wrong in becoming engaged to him. The learned Judge blamed Mrs. Gerard for stating that her sister was in love with Lord Durham, and thought it probable that this "device" to bring about an advantageous match had stimulated Lord Durham, and assisted to wreck the happiness of two lives. He concluded from the evidence that the change in Lady Durham's mental condition from sound to unsound mind occurred during the visit to Cannes, and had not arisen at the time of the marriage. The petition was therefore dismissed with costs.

Sir Thomas Brassey presided on Wednesday night at the Anniversary Festival of the Asylum for Fatherless Children, which was held at the Cannon-street Hotel, when nearly 200 friends of the Charity sat down to dinner. Among those present were Mr. George H. Powell, the Rev. Andrew Reed, Mr. G. C. Scrutton, Mr. Henry Spicer, and Mr. William Withey. The institution, which was founded by the Rev. Dr. Andrew Reed, in 1844, receives fatherless children of both sexes from all parts of the kingdom, at any age between three months and eleven years, and feeds, clothes, educates, and cares for them until they are fifteen years of age. Since the establishment of the institution 1,390 children have been admitted to its benefits, and of that number 311 are still enjoying its shelter. Nearly 1,100 orphans have left the asylum, and in almost every instance they have taken honourable positions in the world. The institution, which has neither endowment nor funded property, is entirely dependent on public benevolence. The Chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, said the annual cost of the maintenance of the institution was £8,000, all of which had to come from annual subscriptions. It was satisfactory to know that in face of the general and serious diminution of incomes there had been but little falling off in the income of the institution, but still it needed all the efforts of their friends to maintain the efficiency of the charity. Subscriptions to the amount of £1,560 were announced, £50 from the Chairman, £50 from Mr. H. A. Brassey, M.P., 20 guineas from Mr. H. Spicer, and Mr. T. S. Child £100.

The annual general meeting of the governors of the Cancer Hospital (Free), Brompton, S.W., was held at Brompton on the 11th inst.; the Earl Sydney, G.C.B., occupied the chair. Among those present were Mr. G. S. Measom, Mr. G. B. Tipping, Rev. T. S. Echalaz, Sir Henry White, Mr. G. T. Hertslet, Dr. Marsden, Dr. Phené, Mr. C. Burkitt, Mr. H. Steele, Mr. E. S. Mounsey, Mr. H. G. Eckford, &c. From the report of the committee for the past year it appeared that the hospital was progressing satisfactorily, and that important additions had been made to the medical staff in view of the increased accommodation for patients, and to further facilitate the study of the disease. A pathologist had been added to the staff, and the committee purpose to utilise the lecture-room, and hope by these means to greatly extend the usefulness of the charity. The offices had been removed from Piccadilly to the new buildings at Brompton, which had proved beneficial in the working of the hospital. The surgeons' report showed that 1,258 new patients had been received, 505 being in and 753 out patients. The reports and accounts were adopted; and thanks accorded to all interested in the welfare of the charity, and to the chairman for kindly presiding, terminated the proceedings.

In a paper lately read before the Statistical Society Sir Richard Temple endeavoured to check the various official returns of the population of China by applying the results obtained from the population statistics of British India. The various statements made by the Chinese Government as to the numbers of people under its rule show violent fluctuations, those of the last century and a half varying between 436 and 363 millions. These returns, as Prof. Douglas pointed out, varied with the purposes for which the enumerations were made. China proper and India, said Sir Richard Temple, are about the same area—a million and a half square miles. Both countries are under similar conditions, physical, technical, climatic, geographical. In both there is a strong tendency to multiplication of the race. In both the population loved to congregate in favoured districts, to settle down and multiply there till the land could scarcely sustain the growing multitudes, and to leave the less favoured districts with a scanty though hardy population. The average population of the whole of India is 184 to the square mile, and if this average be applied to China (exclusive of the central plateau) it gives a population of 282,191,600 souls. The writer then compared, one by one, the eighteen provinces of China proper with the districts in India corresponding nearly in physical characteristics and cultivable area, and, summarising these computations, he found that, over a total area of 1,500,650 square miles, the population, according to this estimate from the Indian averages, would be 282,161,923, or, say, 183 persons to the square mile, while the latest official returns obtained from China show 349,885,386, or 227 inhabitants to the square mile. The general conclusion, he said, might be that the latest Chinese returns, though probably in excess of the reality, did not seem to be extravagant or incredible on the whole if tested by the known averages of the Indian census.

A Parliamentary paper shows the amounts required "on account" for the various Civil Services for the year ending the 31st of March, 1886. The amounts required on account for the Civil Services is £2,863,650, out of a total estimate of £17,686,249; Customs, £100,000—total estimate, £977,733; Inland Revenue, £100,000—total estimate, £1,803,157; Post Office, £100,000—total estimate, £4,854,659; Post Office Packet Service, £20,000—total estimate, £753,781; Post Office Telegraphs, £350,000—total estimate, £1,839,816. The total sum required on account is £3,533,650, out of a total estimate of £27,935,395.

EASTER DECORATIONS should now claim attention, and the advantage of sending all orders for materials, &c., at the earliest possible date cannot be overlooked. Messrs. TERRY & Co., Little Denmark-street, Soho, London, issue a very fully illustrated Catalogue, which they post free to the Clergy. The Catalogue contains many new designs for Easter Banners, Easter Texts, and all Materials in demand for Church Festival Decoration.

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"laden with the scent of flowers,
And breath of odorous spring."

SPINNER'S TEA.—A company of merchants are now selling through Spinner & Co. the choicest tea that comes from India and China at 2s. 8d. a pound, in packets only. This is the perfection of tea, and will please the most fastidious.—Agents wanted in everytown and village. For terms, apply to Spinner & Co., 60, Strand, London.—SPINNER & Co., London and Liverpool.

THROAT IRRITATION AND COUGH.—Soreness and dryness, tickling and irritation, inducing cough and affecting the voice. For these symptoms use Epps's Glycerine Jujubes. In contact with the glands at the moment they are excited by the act of sucking, the Glycerine in these agreeable confections becomes actively healing. Sold only in boxes, 7½d., tins 1s. 1½d., labelled, "JAMES EPPS AND CO., Homœopathic Chemists, London." Dr. George Moore, in his work on "Nose and Throat Diseases," says: "The Glycerine Jujubes prepared by James Epps and Co. are of undoubted service as a curative or palliative agent." While Dr. Gordon Holmes, Senior Physician to the Municipal Throat and Ear Infirmary, writes: "After an extended trial, I have found your Glycerine Jujubes of considerable benefit (with or without medical treatment) in almost all forms of throat disease."

BIRTHS.

March 3, at Wellingborough, the wife of the Rev. R. E. GOLDINGHAM, of a daughter.
March 5, the wife of the Rev. CHARLES COLERIDGE MACKARNESS, Vicar of Aylesbury, of a son.
March 5, at Southbroom Vicarage, Devizes, the wife of the Rev. C. E. B. BARNWELL, of a daughter.
March 6, Lady ROBERT BRUDENELL BRUCE, of a son.
March 6, at Thriplow Vicarage, Royston, the wife of the Rev. LAMBERT WOODARD, of a daughter.
March 6, at 15, Warwick-square, the Hon. Mrs. LOWRY-CORRY, of a son.
March 7, at 39, Eaton-place, Brighton, the wife of the Rev. W. CLIFFORD ASTON, M.A., Incumbent of St. George's, Kensington, of a son.
March 8, at Steventon, Hants, the Lady EVELYN UPTON, of a son and heir.
March 8, at Hoddesdon Vicarage, Herts, the wife of the Rev. P. E. S. HOLLAND, of a son.
March 8, at Chiddingfold, the wife of the Rev. T. S. COOPER, of a daughter.
March 9, at Charlynch Rectory, Somersetshire, the wife of the Rev. W. A. BELL, of a son.
March 9, at 29, Lower Seymour-street, Portman-square, Lady HILDA BRODRICK, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

March 5, at St. Anne's Church, Birkenhead, RICHARD GEORGE GATEHOUSE, M.A. Oxon, only son of C. Gatehouse, Esq., of West Kirby, Cheshire, to ROSE STEWART LINDSAY, eldest surviving daughter of A. E. PELLY, Esq., of Claughton, Cheshire.
March 11, at the Presbyterian Church, St. John's-wood, RICHARD HENRY, M.D., Dublin, to ANNIE LOUISA, daughter of the late Rev. W. B. KIRKPATRICK, D.D., of Dublin.

DEATHS.

March 4, at Clonbern Park, county Galway, MARGARET, widow of Admiral the Hon. W. LE POER TRENCH, and daughter of Dawson Downing, Esq., of Roseglit, county Londonderry.
March 5, BLANCHE COURTNEY, infant daughter of the Rev. T. M. BROMLEY, Head Master of Somersetshire College, Bath, aged two years and four months.
March 7, after an illness of nine weeks, ANTONINA MARIA, wife of the Rev. CONSTANTINE FREER, Rector of Finningham, Suffolk, aged 70.
March 7, at Belmont, Arbroath, ELIZA, widow of the Rev. ALEXANDER SORLEY, in her 73rd year.
March 9, at St. Giles's, Shrewsbury, ELIZABETH, widow of the Rev. JOHN NUNN, formerly Rector of Thorndon, Suffolk, in her 96th year.
March 8, at St. John's Vicarage, Notting-hill (the residence of her brother-in-law, the Rev. R. Thornton, D.D.), after a long illness, SELINA MARY, youngest child of the late JOHN GIDLEY, Esq., of Exeter, in her 43rd year.
March 12, at her residence, Clapham, Mrs. MARY ANN MADDICK, aged 83.

LATEST NEWS.

Teheran, March 13.

The Governor of the Province of Khorassan, who was appointed to that post last year, has recently been placing difficulties in the way of the Afghan Boundary Commission. Sir Peter Lumsden wrote to him last month to ask for aid in purchasing supplies of grain and transport to Zurabad. The Governor replied that he was unable to comply with the request, and excused himself on frivolous grounds. He has also interfered with some horsemen, who have been detailed by the Persian Government to escort couriers between the British camp and Meshed. Sir Peter Lumsden having complained strongly through the British Legation at Teheran of these proceedings, the Shah telegraphed peremptory orders to the Governor to render the aid requested of him. Public feeling in this city is in favour of Russia. The Teheran *Gazette* lately published some disparaging remarks upon England, which caused the British Legation to address remonstrances to the Persian Government. The *Gazette* subsequently made an apology.

Sir Peter Lumsden and the Boundary Commission are now on Persian territory, close to Herat.

It is expected that, in the event of a Russian advance, they will enter Herat.

Rome, March 13.

In consequence of the exile of the Archbishop of Wilna, the Vatican made representations to the Russian Government protesting against the measure. M. Boutenieff, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires to the Holy See, consequently suspended his return to Rome. A rupture of diplomatic relations between Russia and the Holy See is regarded as imminent. The Pope is represented to have taken up a very decided attitude in the matter.

Korti, March 13.

The Guards took the river route on their way to Dongola; the camels were not available; only about three hundred of those that remain are fit for service. Seven thousand were purchased, but of these four thousand died or were killed, and only ten per cent. of what are left are fit for work.

Our force now find the whaleboats invaluable, as they are practically our only means of transport, and offer the only alternative to a wearying march.

Paris, March 13.

A despatch from General Brière de l'Isle, dated Hanoi, 12th inst., states that the Chinese, seeing that their communications were threatened by the French positions beyond Langson, have evacuated Chatke and recrossed the frontier into China.

Lloyd's agent at Shanghai telegraphs to-day:—*Glenroy* (s), subjected to search; detained at Gutzlaff by a French man-of-war in consequence of part of her cargo being lead. The *Glenroy* is bound from China to London.

The reported arrested of the two supposed Fenians, Davis and Morrissey, is confirmed. Stephens, formerly Fenian Head Centre, and Mortimer Leroy, a journalist, have also been arrested. The four men will be expelled from France to-day.

RUSSIA AND ENGLAND.

Up to a late hour last night the condition of affairs with respect to Russia remained substantially unchanged. Her Majesty's Government continue to receive peaceful protestations from the Government of the Czar, whilst at the same time the contiguity of the Russian advance guard on the Afghan outposts threatens war.

According to the latest advices of the Foreign Office, Penjdeh is still held by the Afghans, and the Russians have not advanced beyond Pul-i-Khatum and Ak-rabat, which places they occupy.

Among the supporters of the Government the belief is still general that a peaceful solution of the Afghan difficulty will be arrived at. It is thought that the strength of public opinion in this country upon the subject has not until now been appreciated at St. Petersburg, and there are strong doubts whether the Russian Government would choose the present time to enter upon a European war.

Prince Lobanoff has left Vienna for St. Petersburg, intending to remain in the Russian capital for three weeks. Many conjectures are rife in Vienna as to the reason of this journey; but the probability is that his advice is being sought at this critical moment, as he is considered a great authority on English affairs.

The tone of the Russian press on the Afghan frontier question continues as uncompromising as ever. One military organ attributes the Muscovite advance to the alleged invitation of the Heratis, who, according to this authority, have "solicited the Czar's protectorate."

A meeting of the Cabinet was held at noon on Thursday at the Premier's official residence, Downing-street, and lasted two hours and a half. All the members were present except Earl Spencer. It is understood that the critical relations of this country with Russia concerning the Afghan frontier were almost the sole subject of consideration. The utmost reticence is observed as to the deliberations of Ministers, but there is reason to believe that the Government have determined to adhere firmly to the position which they are known to have assumed, and an unequivocal intimation to this effect is stated to have been forwarded to the Russian Government at St. Petersburg.

The Press Association learns from an authoritative source that the Government has given certain discretionary powers to Sir P. Lumsden, to be exercised in the event of a dangerous forward movement of the Russians in Northern Afghanistan. Sir Peter is nearly six days distant from telegraphic communication with the English Foreign Office, and should the Russian outposts attack the Afghan at any of the latter's strongholds, action on the part of the British Commissioner would at once be taken. The nature of that action is not allowed to transpire, but it is stated that Sir Peter will send some of his officers into Herat to organise the Afghan troops there, while he himself will take up a position, not necessarily a warlike one, in the Robat Pass.

THE GORDON COMMEMORATION.

Yesterday was generally observed as a day of public mourning for the loss of General Gordon. In compliance with the wish and recommendation of the Archbishop of Canterbury, special services of mourning and commemoration were held in the Cathedrals in remembrance of General Gordon and of his companions in arms who have fallen in the Soudan.

At the special service at St. Paul's there was a very large congregation, every seat being occupied, and many persons standing. During the assembling of the congregation Chopin's *Marche Funèbre* was played on the organ. Amongst those present were the Princess of Wales, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Sir Harry Verney, M.P., Sir Robert Peel, M.P., General Wilbraham, Dr. Currie, and Dr. Wace. The opening sentences of the Burial Service were sung to Purcell's setting. The Psalm *Dixi Custodiam* having also been chorally rendered, Canonon Gregory read the lesson. The anthem "Blest are the departed" (Spohr) followed. The sermon was preached by Dr. Wilberforce, Bishop of Newcastle. He referred in the course of his remarks to the great services General Gordon had rendered to his country, and the glorious example he had left to all Englishmen:—

"As in life he was a hero, so by his death he gave to all the world a glorious example. He was the highest type in the nineteenth century of the fearless Christian soldier. They had to consider what lesson could be learned from the lives given by England to the Soudan, and especially from the life of that one man on whom the whole world had for so long been fixed, and who at last had sunk under the withering blast of treachery. Those who had fallen had given their lives to duty with the utmost fortitude, and the events of the last month should be a lesson teaching that it was in life and not in death that they realised the hero. What made the hero was not a contempt of death, but a noble and unselfish life. Wherever he went Charles George Gordon made his influence felt. The lesson to be learned from his life and from those of others who had fallen in the Soudan was the steadfastness to the end, and noble lives laid down in honourable death would bear fruit. Gordon's own words indicated that fear did not enter into his feelings, for he had said that he would give his life for the poor people in the Soudan. The lives of Gordon and his brave followers would produce a rich harvest, whether or not the present generation lived to see it, for God would use those deaths to crown with greater fruits the gospel of His Son, and where there was darkness light would be introduced. In all the life of Gordon God was a living factor. In January last he wrote—'For Egypt He is working out His wonderful embroidery of events. These events are nothing, but occasions in men's hearts are everything.'

"Each life is a struggle, therefore, to a victory or defeat; all through each day we are learning to go to the stake bravely if the call shall come, or are preparing to turn cowards when the foe shall try us. The saints of old became what they were by the daily bowing of their will to God, and, turning round to bid farewell as they enter paradise, their last word is 'out of weakness we are made strong.' So that strange power was given to Gordon because his heart was the dwelling-place of God. Dwelling there He empowers the feeble, uplifts the fainting, gives bread to the hungry, whispering even sweetly as the darkness gathers 'My grace is sufficient for thee.' Dwelling there He enriches the lowest life, so that the once barren woman now keeps house for a nightly guest, and in works done for Jesus she becomes the joyful mother of children. 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with Me.' There is the secret. 'If a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it bringeth forth much fruit.' There is the result. For—

'Only the actions of the just
Smell sweet, and blossom in the dust.'"

The hymn "Jesus lives; no longer now" concluded the service. Before the singing of the hymn there was a brief interval for private prayer.

At Westminster Abbey in the afternoon every available space was occupied some time before the hour appointed for the service to commence, and thousands of persons were refused admittance. The congregation included the Duke of Cambridge, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lords Granville, Rosebery, Lamington, Colville of Culross, Mount Temple, Fortescue, Ailesbury, Stanhope, and Galloway, Mr. Childers, M.P., Mr. W. H. Smith, M.P., Mr. Ritchie, M.P., Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P., Mr. E. Stanhope, Mr. Coope, M.P., Mr. Armitage, M.P., Colonel Erskine, Sir Harry Verner, and Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett. There was a large number of soldiers from various regiments present. The pulpit was draped in black. The Dean, in the course of his address, said that he for whom their hearts were sore had been laid in no English grave, with no Christian prayers:—

"No comrades' tears had fallen upon his bier, no soldiers' volley had been fired over his grave. It might be, it was, perhaps, within the bounds of possibility, that his remains would yet descend that historic stream, or cross the deserts, and travel the seas, and rest one day beneath his native skies by the side of many other heroes. But meantime a cry of sorrow had gone up from his native land and from all Christendom. Rachel, they might say without exaggeration, was weeping for one of the noblest of her sons. There was mourning throughout the British Empire, and England's colonial offspring had gathered round their imperial mother in the hour of trial. There was, moreover, they might be sure, a sense of pain in many a silent heart in that dark continent, for whose hopeless sons he had such boundless pity." Having alluded to the principal events of General Gordon's life in the Crimea, China, and the Soudan, and the great bravery he had shown on all occasions, the Dean, in concluding, said:—

"But it would be an evil hour for England if, as dangers closed round her, and her responsibility became more complex, she ceased to honour and praise men like him whom we had lost. The world was and must be poorer for the loss; and those who mourned might never replace him. Men could not raise themselves to the level or force themselves to the model of such exceptional natures. Strange natures they seemed, judging them by our conventional standard, that God sent from time to time to place their mark upon the world. But he would not have died in vain if they—soldiers, men, and women—could catch something of his self-sacrificing, devout, and unselfish spirit; and if his example could aid them to enter into the spiritual life, that entire trust in the unseen God, that power of living in communion with Him and with the world above, which gave such strange force and meaning to his daily work."

At the conclusion of the service the "Dead March" in *Saul* was played.

Peculiar interest attached to the funeral service at Rochester Cathedral, because General Gordon belonged to the Royal Engineers, the headquarters of which corps are at Chatham, and they have adopted the Cathedral as their own by placing numerous memorials therein. The service was attended by 610 soldiers, besides officers. The number was made up of Engineers, Artillery, Berkshire Regiment, Marines, and East Kent Militia. The Engineers' band, sixty strong, accompanied the organ in the hymns, Beethoven's "Funeral March for a Hero," Handel's "Dead March" in *Saul*, and Herr Sawerthal's "Elegy." The lesson was read by Canon Burrows, the address given by Canon Jelf, Vice-Dean, and the prayers intoned by the Rev. A. L. Coates, Precentor. The Cathedral was crowded. The Mayor and Corporation attended in state, and among the local notables present were the Earl and Countess of Darnley. The contingent of the Royal Engineers, over 300 strong, was under the command of Colonel Gordon, the commandant, who was not related to the late General. The Bishop and Dean were absent owing to illness.

In most of the Cathedrals the Burial Office was said. At York the service was in the nave, and the preacher was the Rev. G. C. Fisher. At Bangor Cathedral, after the Litany, a portion of the Burial Office was used, and the anthem was Spohr's "Blest are the departed," after which the Bishop gave a short address.

The commemoration service held in Chichester Cathedral was attended by a large congregation, which included 260 men of the Royal Sussex Regiment, under Colonel Gregorie, commanding at Chichester Barracks. After some portion of the Burial Service had been read, the hymn "The saints of God in conflict past" was sung, and the Bishop of Chichester delivered an address founded on David's lament over the grave of Abner (third chapter of the Second Book of Samuel).

At Manchester, a special service was held in the Cathedral. The 2nd Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment, the 1st Battalion of which is in the Soudan and fought under General Earle, was present; and several cavalry regiments were represented. The church was crowded in every part, hundreds of people being unable to obtain admission. The Bishop of Manchester was the preacher. At Dover a special funeral service was held by the rural dean at the parish church, which was attended by the Mayor and corporation and a large congregation.

The day was kept in a similar manner at Northampton. Flags were flying half-mast high at some of the churches, and there were other signs of mourning. A funeral service was held at All Saints' Church, the sermon being preached by the Archdeacon of Northampton.

SOCIETY.

A marriage is arranged between Mr. Henry Exshaw, eldest son of Mr. Exshaw, of Bordeaux, and of Brooke House, near Norwich, and Miss Inglis Jones, only daughter of Lady Elizabeth Inglis Jones and the late Mr. Inglis Jones, of Derry Ormond, Cardiganshire.

Also between Mr. Frederick Soames, of Plas Ffron, near Wrexham, and Miss Julie West, eldest daughter of the late Henry West, Q.C., of Loughlistown House, co. Dublin.

The marriage of Mr. Alfred Benson, youngest son of the late Mr. J. W. Benson, with Miss Florence Gaultier Dalziel, younger daughter of the late Mr. Davison Octavian Dalziel, was celebrated at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, on Thursday last. The bridegroom was attended by his brother, Mr. Arthur Benson, as best man, and there were eight bridesmaids. The bride came soon after half-past eleven o'clock, and was conducted to the chancel by her uncle, Mr. George Dalziel, who afterwards gave her away. The bride wore a handsome dress of white satin duchesse, the long plain train being edged with a thick quilting of satin. The petticoat was of beautiful pearl embroidery, with hanging pearl drops, and on one side near the back was a very large sash of watered silk, and a bunch of white lilac and orange blossoms; the pointed bodice was laced down the back, and had a pearl embroidered waistcoat to correspond with the petticoat, and a high collar of pearls. She wore a wreath of orange blossoms and tulle veil, hemmed with seed pearls, and her ornaments, which were diamonds, included a half-moon brooch, the gift of the bridegroom. Her bouquet was composed of white lilac, roses, and orange blossoms tied with wide ribbon. The six elder bridesmaids were attired in yellow satin, covered with soft creamy white lace, edged with a full frill of lace, the drapery being caught on one side with bunches of daffodils and bows of yellow satin, and wore yellow aigrettes in their hair, with tulle veils. The two children had underskirts of cream satin, with quaintly draped overdresses of lace, and large yellow satin sashes. "Cherry Ripe" lace caps, with yellow satin bows, white satin sandal shoes, and mittens. Each wore a beautiful gold arrow brooch, with a fly in the centre, the body being composed of a large pearl, the wings of diamonds, and the eyes of rubies; and carried a large bunch of daffodils, tied with bows of yellow satin, both being the bridegroom's gifts. Mrs. Dalziel, the bride's mother, was handsomely dressed in a train of red velvet of a new shade, lined with satin the same colour, with petticoat and vest of red cut jet, and velvet bonnet and feathers to match. Mrs. F. E. Colman, the bride's sister, wore a dress of moss-green velvet, made with a full, straight back; slanting up on one side of the skirt were large chenille palm leaves, shading from dull moss green to pale yellow, surrounded by large cord and tassels; the pointed bodice was finished with a large square lace collar, and deep vandyked lace cuffs; and she wore a small green velvet cape, trimmed with green chenille and passementerie, and bonnet to correspond, with pale green feather. The service, which was fully choral, was performed by the Rev. Henry White, M.A., chaplain of the Chapel Royal, Savoy, and Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen. The ceremony over, the wedding party proceeded to Carlyle House, Chelsea Embankment, the residence of Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Colman, brother-in-law and sister of the bride, where a sumptuous breakfast was served. In the course of the afternoon the newly-wedded pair left for Folkestone, on their way to Paris, where they will pass the honeymoon. The bride's beautiful travelling dress was of rich dark brown velvet, with petticoat of stamped velvet (the design being large feathers), the back of the dress appearing as though entirely formed of an immense bow of plain velvet, and she wore a small velvet hat, trimmed in front with humming birds.

The marriage of Mr. Herbert C. Dugdale (16th Lancers), third son of the late Mr. James Dugdale, of Wroxall Abbey, Warwickshire, with Miss Emmeline Charlotte Louisa Lort Phillips, second daughter of the late Mr. Richard Lort Ilbert Phillips, of Ashdale, Pembroke, was celebrated at St. Michael's Church, Chester-square, on the 5th inst. Mr. Frank Dugdale acted as best man to his brother. The bride, who was given away by her brother, Mr. Lort Phillips, was attired in a bodice and train of white striped satin, trimmed with ostrich feathers, over a petticoat of white satin and duchesse point lace, and wore a tulle veil; diamond stars, gifts of the bridegroom; diamond necklace, crescent, and spray. She was attended by three bridesmaids, all children, dressed in white, with cardinal sashes, shoes, and stockings, and wore cardinal velvet Tam o' Shanter caps with white wings, and each wore a Lancer brooch, the gift of the bridegroom. The Rev. Canon Fleming, vicar of St. Michael's, performed the marriage rite. After the ceremony the wedding party proceeded to the Alexandra Hotel for breakfast, the company consisting of the immediate relatives and friends of both families. The newly-wedded couple started later for Paris for their honeymoon, the bride wearing a travelling dress of blue serge, with Zouave jacket and blue and white striped waistcoat, cuffs, and panels, and long coat of dark blue cloth, with velvet collar and cuffs; dark blue hat, and feathers to match.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

NEW ACROSTIC RULES.

In future, instead of the Quarterly Prizes, a Prize of One Guinea will be given every month for the successful solution of the Acrostics that appear in the *John Bull*.

The first monthly competition will include the Acrostics that are given on February 21st, February 28th, March 7th, March 14th, March 21st, and March 28th.

At the end of the month, in case competitors tie, they will proceed to guess off the ties, being debarred from prize-winning in the fresh monthly competition so long as they are engaged in contesting the ties.

No competitor can gain more than two Monthly Prizes in the course of the year.

All solutions must be forwarded not later than the Monday week following the appearance of the Acrostic, addressed to the Acrostic Editor of the *John Bull*, 6, Whitefriars-street, Fleet-street, E.C., and signed by a pseudonym of not inordinate length.

Alternatives to the number of three are allowed.

All solutions received are acknowledged, whether correct or not.

ANSWER TO DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 2.
(First Month, Tenth Year.)

1. S erendi B
2. U ndin E
3. A ngle R
4. K abo B
5. I nvincibl E
6. M irama R

Light 1.—Ancient name for Ceylon.
Light 3.—Poem by John Chalkhill.
Light 5.—Armada, and Phœnix-park murderers.

Answers have been received from Persevere, Roma, Work, Eldon, Todcat, Conjecture, Zyx, Burleigh, G.C.H., Sarnia, Peewit, Hadji, Beam, Iris, Hampton Courtier, Sociable, Etak, M.A.E.B., and Viz.

The Quarterly Prize has been gained by
Miss Baker (M.A.E.B),
The Chestnuts,
Newbury.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC, No. 4.
(First Month, Tenth Year.)

Proem.
How very much alike they be,
Yet what a difference some can see!

1.
A worthy object to adore:
Live up to me, you need no more.

2.
When at last the conquering tyrant slept,
This was the only creature that wept.

3.
Poor lay-brother Peter, what were you about?
Ten yards of blue ribbon had scarce pulled you out.

4.
One camel could not exit win,
But a "sight" of camels could enter in.

5.
The faithful birds who mourned his death with woe,
Were faithless to their mistress, his fair foe.

6.
He stood by the gate for a parting word,
The last from him that she ever heard.

7.
My laws have ne'er been written in a book,
But their breakers for mercy must not look.

8.
To the "Lion of the North" he good service had done;
But wisely, also, he remembered number one.

9.
Thomas, don't fill up so much space;
Unto your elders pray give place.

10.
I'm not the end, although the last;
In seeking me go not too fast.

PEGASUS.

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